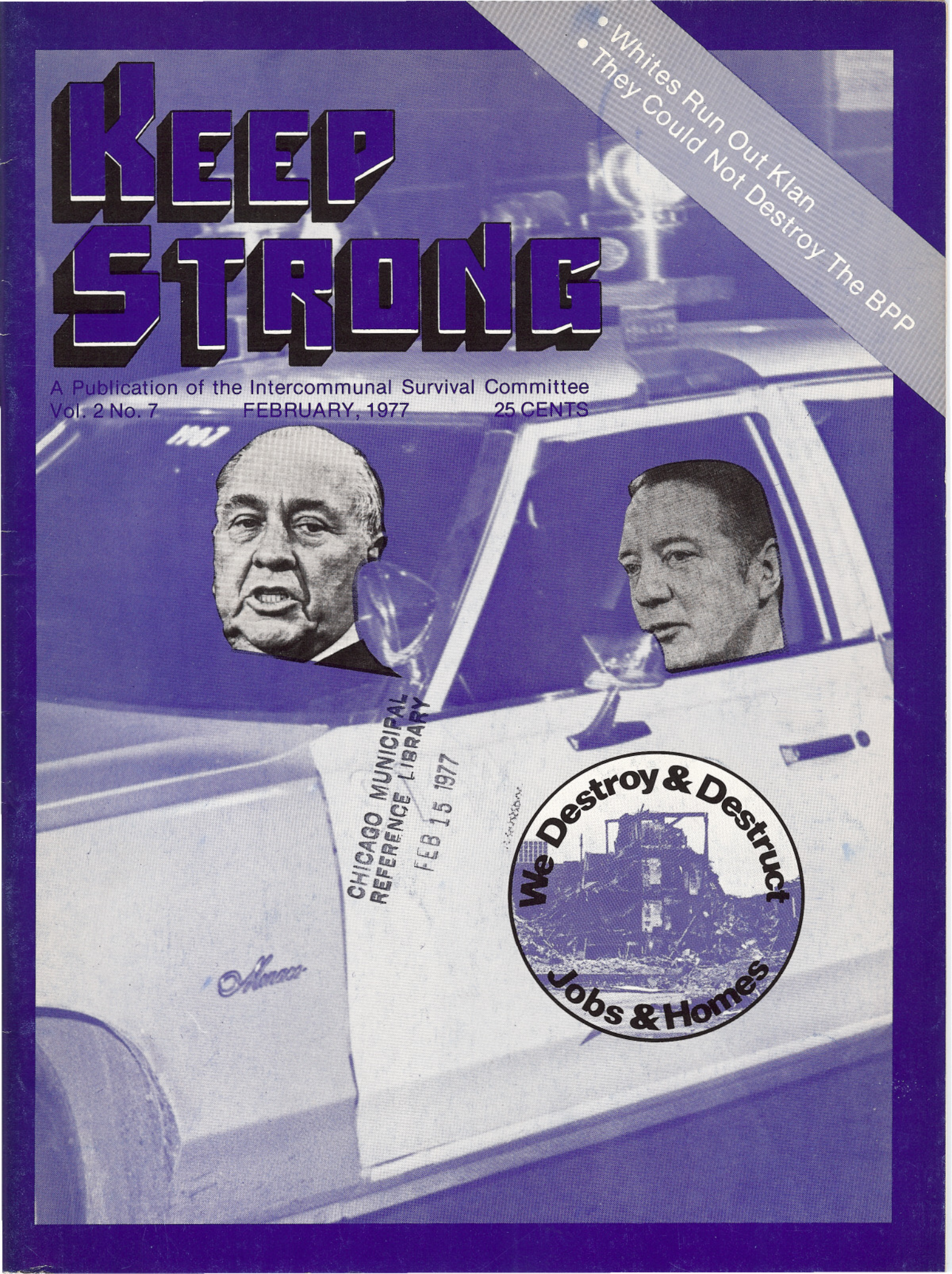
KEEP STRONG

- Whites Run Out Klan
- They Could Not Destroy The BPP

A Publication of the Intercommunal Survival Committee
Vol. 2 No. 7 FEBRUARY, 1977 25 CENTS



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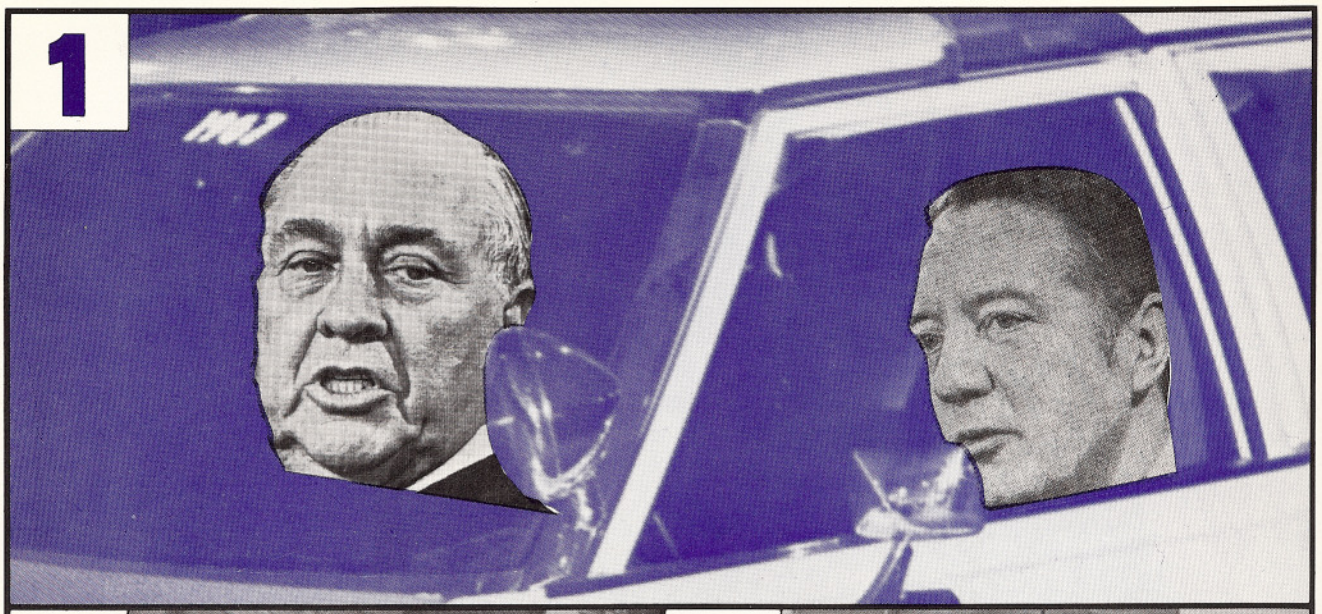

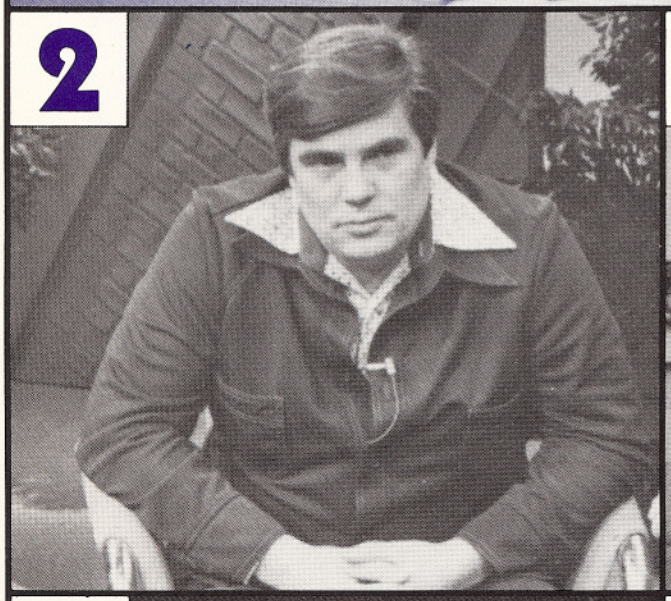

KEEP STRONG is published monthly by the Keep Strong Publishing Company, 1222 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60640 (312) 769-2087 Editor, Helen Shiller

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In This Issue

1. Bilandic now drives the Daley machine, assisted by the dead mayor's son and the mysterious Tommy Donovan but they are facing a growing people's challenge. See Editorial, p. 3 and Three Who Rule Chicago, p. 24.

2. Ed Sadlowski nears election challenge to steelworkers' leadership. See Rank 'n File, p. 19.

3. The struggle in Brooklyn for Engine Company 212 continues. See page 22.

4. Klan organizing meets resistance in Harlan County. See page 26.

5. Elaine Brown gives a moving speech as the L.A. Chapter of the Black Panther Party reopens. See page 28.

EDITORIAL

PEOPLE'S POWER

Power, according to Huey P. Newton, is the ability to define phenomenon and make it act in the desired manner. Power is also something which we, as poor and oppressed people, need, because we are powerless. So we should analyze Huey P. Newton's definition of power and try to apply it to our situation.

In Chicago's mayoral election, the politicians and the billion dollar business interests behind them are defining the issues. According to them, the issue is "which politician will be the mayor." In other words, which individuals in politics do you owe your allegiance to. On the precinct level, the precinct captain will say, "Vote for my candidate, and I will take care of you." In this situation we are powerless. We are simply choosing between the faces someone else puts up for us. We are not defining the situation, the "phenomenon" of city government.

If, on the other hand, the people from the poor and working communities across this city come together and agree on a "people's platform," we can then choose a candidate on our own terms. If the candidate agrees to our people's platform, then we can put him in office. If he doesn't carry out the platform we can put him out of office.

The situation is similar in many labor unions today. For instance, in the Steelworkers, there is an election where Sadlowski is challenging the old corrupt, sellout leadership. In IBEW local 1031, a progressive slate of candidates is challenging the present leadership, which is owned lock, stock and barrel by the companies and the Chicago "Daley" machine. Honest workers in both unions who are working for the challengers are saying, "We may not win, but we will begin to organize a unified and strong rank and file that can set its own platform in the future and make the candidates come to us."

In Chicago there is only one potentially honest candidate running for mayor who might fight the policies of the machine which are making it harder and harder for us to survive. That candidate is Bob Tucker. And there is one key issue in the city which we the people must have decided in our favor. That issue is the housing and economic development program for Chicago.

If mayoral candidate Bob Tucker is strong on the demands of a people's platform, we should organize for him in order to organize for ourselves in the future.

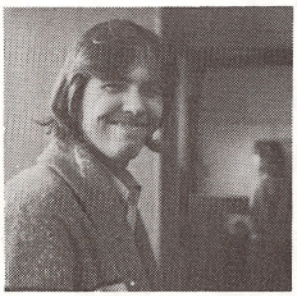
If Bilandic and the party machine continue to rule Chicago, they will continue the policy of removing poor and working people from the city, starving us out, tearing down our neighborhoods and permitting only the development of jobs that middle and upper-income Whites will fill. They have proven they are dedicated to our elimination.

Our people's platform must demand a priority on low-income housing and jobs for the majority of Black, Latino and poor and working Whites who now live in the city. We should use this election and the time between this election and the next one in 1979 to unify the majority of people in Chicago around these demands. If candidate Tucker is strong on these demands, we should organize for him in order to organize for ourselves in the future.

When we can define "the phenomenon" — whether it is an election or anything else — we can unify ourselves and make it act as we desire. We have the power because we are the majority, but it is unorganized. To organize it, we must set the terms and develop a mighty unity in holding the rich and powerful to those terms.□

ON THE STREET

HOW DID THE MOVIE "ROOTS" AFFECT YOU?



Allen Humphrey
N. Magnolia

"I couldn't really believe that Black people were treated that way back then, but after watching the movie I kind of felt sorry for them, and at the end when they took off with the wagons, and they chained that guy to a tree, I was hoping they would take the gun and shoot him in the back. It was an all right movie. First I felt sorry for them and then I was cheering for them. But all along the movie I was always on their side because it seemed to me they were always right. That's the way the movie made me think. It was really all right. They ought to make more movies like that."

Jacquelyn Harris
N. Beacon

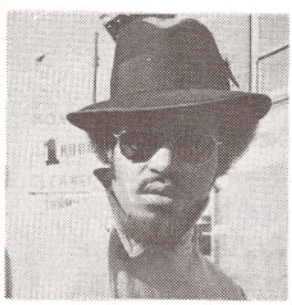
"I thought *ROOTS* was fantastic. It was a really, really nice picture. And it gave you a lot of interest in what was before you — your ancestors. I want to find out what my roots are — where I came from. Alex Haley is a smart man, very smart. Yeah, *ROOTS* was slick; I liked it. It couldn't have been better as far as going back, finding where you come from."

Gloria Mellado
W. Wilson

"I started watching the first part on Sunday night for about two hours, and I couldn't watch it anymore. I used to be able to watch those kind of things, but now I just felt like in their relation to the American Indian that they were just going to make slaves out of them and do bad things to them, knowingly. The people were so innocent, like we were so innocent, and I related to both of us, how we've been treated. I saw the relation — the people over in Africa being forced over here and then we over here being treated the way we were and still are."

Norma Turrell
N. Magnolia

"I just thought it was a sorrowful experience; that no one should be in slavery."



Larry Hewitt
N. Dover

"I watched the entire program, and in my opinion, the program had enough impact on the American public to convince all of us, like the man said, of man's inhumanity to man. A lot of it has been kept secret so that the younger generation wouldn't know. Now, being publicized on T.V., it gave everybody a chance to see themselves."

Gladys Ochaita
N. Greenview

"I think it's a very sad story. I think that people shouldn't treat other people worse than animals, because that's what they were doing to Black people."

Arthur Poulin
N. Beacon

"I think that what I found interesting was the fact that it was Black people doing the acting and the fact that it meant something to them to do it. I found a lot of it to be just Hollywood – a lot of the parts – but I felt a lot of the things that were coming out (like between the Blacks) gave some indication about how much they suffered. The things that happened to them, the segregation of families and being sold off and things like that – I think it did show how much they did suffer."

Maurice Walker
W. Leland

"I thought it was a very interesting movie, and I hope that a lot of people saw it. I hope a lot of different people, not only Black folks, but White folks, Latins, whatever, saw the movie and could get an idea of what Black folks went through coming into this country, to let other people know that we have a part of this country just like everybody else. I was glad that a man researched himself that far back to see what was really going on."

Helen Mike
W. Wilson

"It was a program that I was happy to watch with my children and explain some things to them about how this country developed, and how they're taught differently in school than that presentation. I read some comments about people who were criticizing it, and I didn't think those criticisms were valid. They weren't for me. I thought that any brutality that was presented was done in a tasteful way and certainly not anywhere near as bad as it really was. I was certainly glad it was on, and I would appreciate any other programming of a like nature in the future."

E. Kampe
N. Paulina

"It was a very well-made movie, and whoever was the make-up artist was an expert. I knew the history of Black people, and it was presented very good. It wasn't overdone, and I thought it was a very good series."

Bessie Simpson
W. Sunnyside Ave.

"I know there were things in it that would change people's hearts if they had a heart in them, change their attitude. I heard my grandfather and grandmother talk about slavery. It was true about Black people being treated like that and about how the Indians were treated. I don't know how anybody could watch that picture and not have a change of attitude. People are not that dumb. They just let a cruel heart take over. I don't know why people let themselves get that way."

WELFARE RIGHTS

No Proof Of Birth — No Right To Life

(Chicago, Ill.) Henry Paul was hospitalized last November with a head fracture and two broken arms. He was unemployed at the time and had no income, so he applied for public aid to cover his hospital bill. When he was released he was in no condition to get any work so he went to general assistance and applied. He still had not been granted a medical card to cover his hospital bill.

In mid-December, Henry was informed that he had been denied when he went to the public aid office to get emergency food stamps. They told him that he did not meet the citizenship and alienage requirements because he could not produce a birth certificate.

Henry was born in Beckley, West Virginia in his mother's home by a midwife. They said he violated public aid policy 405 which states "to be eligible a person must be a citizen of the U.S. by birth or naturalization or an alien who has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence or is otherwise residing in U.S. under color of law." In other words, Henry violated public aid policy because he was not born in a hospital where a birth certificate was issued, and therefore they would not recognize his need for public aid.

With help from the 46th Ward Community Service Center, Henry filed an appeal immediately. At his appeal he was denied again on the basis that he had not met a 45-day deadline to produce a record of his birth. However, two days before this deadline the proof of birth had not yet arrived from West Virginia so Henry called the welfare office, talked to a caseworker and explained the situation pointing out that he had a receipt showing that he had sent for the crucial records. He asked for an extention until the records arrived. All of this was ignored by the hearing officers.

A spokesperson from the Service Center pointed out that even if Henry hadn't produced his birth records in 45 days he had been denied after only 30 days. "What they really were trying to do," she pointed out, "was to avoid paying Henry's medical expenses which amounted to temporarily disabled and unable to get work to pay off this bill as well as money to live on day-by-day, they flatly refused him any aid. They might as well have told the man out right to drop dead."□

WIN Program = Mind Control

(Milwaukee, Wisc.) Behavior Modification, an experiment in mind control used increasingly in American prisons, jails and mental institutions, is rapidly making its way into the growing welfare bureaucracy. In Wisconsin, the Department of Health and Social Services is doing a good job of integrating the realities of behavior modification into their Work Incentive Program (WIN)

People who receive AFDC and AFDC-U (Aid for Families with Dependent Children - Unemployed Fathers) are required to register with the WIN Program for job counseling, job referrals and work-for-training. According to state regulations, the unemployed fathers in a two-parent family household, single parents with the youngest child in the family at age six or over, and all children over the age of sixteen who are not enrolled in full-time school, must register with the WIN program in order to receive their monthly assistance grants.

The WIN program has earned a reputation for offering degrading jobs and low pay. There are added costs for a parent who is working, creating an impression that the real reason for the WIN program is to punish people who have found themselves unemployed and desperate. In addition, there have been many complaints of cruel and punitive treatment by counselors of mandatory WIN registrants.

It is easy for someone to get discouraged under such circumstances. When a WIN registrant fails to show up for a WIN appointment, or arrives late, or refuses a job without permission of the WIN counselor, he or she may be "sanctioned" or cut off from the family's grant.

If someone is "sanctioned," they are assigned a "mandatory alternate payee," someone outside of the family who receives the family's grant and manages all the family's finances. According to the Income Maintenance Manual for the State of Wisconsin, "setting up the payee also acts as an irritant to pursuade the individual to cooperate.

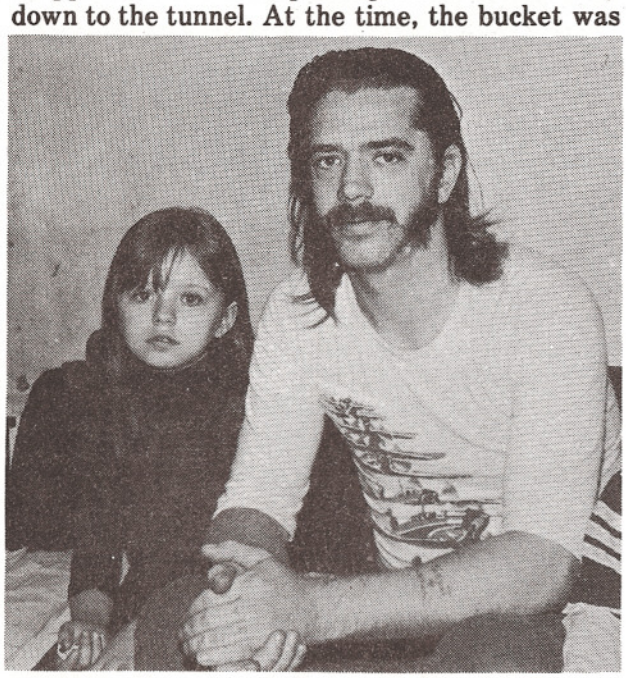
In behavior modification terminology, the mandatory alternate payee is a 'negative reinforcement,' which is removed only when the person actually does participate in WIN."

There are repeated examples of threats being held over people's heads if they do not follow public aid policies. If paternity action and non-support regulations are not complied with the head-of-household is cut off aid. If an unemployed father does not maintain current registration with Job Service, even when Job Service has repeatedly been unable to find employment for him, his family will not be allowed to receive food stamps. And there is more and more. It is very likely that the low-income family, in or out of prison, will become a human guinea pig for a variety of federal, state and local experiments.□

UNEMPLOYMENT

Benefits Denied

(Chicago, Ill.) Jackie Collins worked for the Kenny Construction Company for approximately one year as a hard rock tunneler building an overflow flooding system in the suburbs. In spite of many safety violations on the job (see *KEEP STRONG*, Vol. II, no. 2), the pay was good, and Jackie continued to work until he was almost dropped out of a transporting bucket on his way down to the tunnel. At the time, the bucket was



Jackie Collins was always one to talk about the safety problems on the job. Is this why he is getting a runaround?

Jackie was almost dumped out of the transporting bucket.

300 feet from the cave floor, and the near fall could have been fatal. The incident was the final straw, and Jackie quit.

He filed for unemployment compensation benefits. After six weeks he finally received his first check. The checks continued to come irregularly and only after long hours spent waiting in line outside the Kedzie Ave. unemployment office. When it came time for his first extension, he was declared ineligible and was given no explanation.

After some investigation, Jackie found out that the Kenny Construction Company had challenged his receipt of benefits claiming he had left his job without good reason. He was told that he must have an informal hearing with the unemployment compensation office to determine whether or not he had just cause to quit his job. Jackie was never informed of any rights to have a person of his choice represent him at his hearing and attended the hearing alone. He was asked his reasons for quitting and responded by describing the many safety violations and dangers that went along with the job. They dismissed him and said they would contact him with their verdict.

Jackie has heard nothing and received nothing. It has been close to two months and his back checks are mounting up. He says that, "lots of other guys have quit for the same reasons and got unemployment right away with no problem." Jackie, who was always one to talk about the safety problems on the job, thinks maybe this is the real reason he is getting the runaround.□

TENANTS' RIGHTS

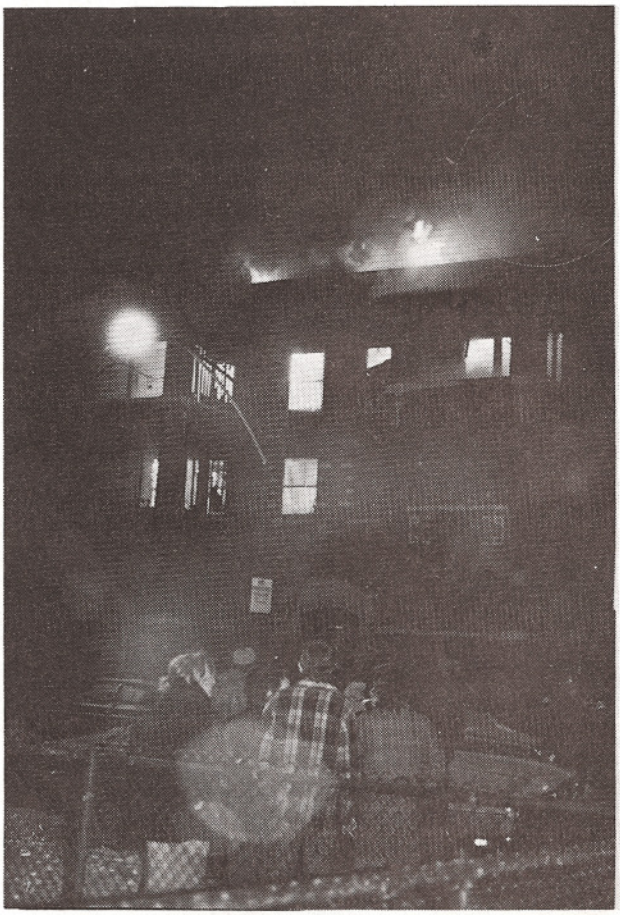
Building Goes Up In Flames – UTSU Exposes Landlord Scheme

(Chicago, Ill.) On the night of January 25 at around 11:30, 4448 N. Magnolia was burned. A number of community residents claim at that exact time they heard a crash, followed by a man running from the building. Within a few minutes the entire building was up in flames. According to residents of the area, the fire was beyond a doubt a professional torch job. This fire brought to an end the first phase of a long tenants' struggle led by the Uptown Tenants Survival Union (See the last three issues of *KEEP STRONG*).

Organizers for the UTSU, however, state that the overall struggle around this building is by no means over and vow that they will rebuild the structure. They point out that what happened to this building is a classic example of the corrupt practices of many landlords and is part and parcel of the "hidden conspiracy" to drive poor people out of Uptown and the oppressed communities. Through the work of the tenants and UTSU, the practices used by the landlord, Charlie Roberts, and his cohorts, in milking buildings into destruction have been exposed. The object is twofold: make as much money as possible by collecting rents but taking absolutely no responsibility for the maintenance of the property, and changing ownership and titles as often as necessary to avoid having to account for any of their actions in court.

The way this worked in the building at 4448 N. Magnolia illustrates this principle very clearly. The building, which was originally owned by Irving Slutsky, was sold to Charlie Roberts on contract with all rights to assign in November, 1975. He sold it mainly because the building department, which had had the building in court since 1969, refused to allow any more delays by Mr. Slutsky in making repairs. Roberts agreed to pay $311.38 a month. The income from the building, primarily from the collection of rents, amounted to approximately $1500 per month. Since Roberts put almost nothing into the building except for his mortgage payment and some utility bills, it can be estimated that he was making approximately $800 a month on the building. Late in 1976 the tenants began protesting their miserable living conditions. Roberts, knowing that his time was running short, then began the real game of "musical owners." Within a 30 day period the ownership of the building changed three times, and the bank responsible for the transaction changed twice. Meanwhile, the court was still trying to prosecute Slutsky. Normally it would have taken the court ten months to track down the real owner, however UTSU took all of the so-called owners to court on December 30 and was able to demonstrate this whole scheme before the judge. It became clear that this group could no longer escape the court — their profit making venture had run its course.

On December 31, Mr. Dockery, the "owner of the day," entered the basement of the building and destroyed the boiler and hot water heater, thereby creating an unbearable situation due to the lack of heat. Shortly afterwards the judge ordered the building vacated and all utililties



On the night of January 25 around 11:30, 4448 N. Magnolia was burned. Within a few minutes the entire building was up in flames.

4448 N. Magnolia after the fire.

shut off until the owners could bring the building up to code. On January 23 the utilities were shut off, and two days later the building was burned. The owners could collect the fire insurance and move on to repeat this process in another building.

However, attorneys for UTSU say that the case is not over and plan to pursue this matter further. "It is high time that we put a stop to situations like these. Roberts and his cohorts must be exposed and made an example of. The day when a landlord can come into our community and make money off the misery of our people is over. Landlords of this nature must be run out of the community and made to pay the consequences of their actions."□

HUD's Role In Low-Income Housing Exposed

(Milwaukee, Wisc.) At a well-attended meeting on January 6, 1977 at the Martin Luther King Community Center located on 12th and Vliet St., public housing tenants from across this city formed the Milwaukee Area Tenants Association. The tenants, representing five different federal 236 projects, announced as their chief goal the pooling of resources, organization and skill to demand decent housing conditions and fair rents.

Tenants who live in federal housing are forced to rely on the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a monstrous, sloppy, bureaucratic mess, entangled in its own jumble of regulations and paperwork. It is HUD's responsibility to ensure that standards are maintained within housing projects and that hundreds of millions of dollars in loans that the government has made available for low-income housing are not defaulted on.

Private real estate men like Henry Pitt (see *KEEP STRONG*, January, 1977) and Sidney Kohl (of Kohl grocery chain and owner of Northridge Lakes) who contract with the government to manage these buildings are in constant conflict with tenants. They can always be found telling tenants not to complain about busted pipes, broken windows or sewage in the kitchen sink. The tenants, they say, should be grateful because their rents are so low. Meanwhile, these men and others like them receive full rent from the government for every

Tenants have announced as their chief goal the pooling of resources, organization and skill to demand decent housing conditions and fair rents.

apartment (rented or not) that they own or manage. It is for this reason that local HUD officials refuse to get involved in "landlord-tenant matters." They don't want to anger the Pitts and the Kohls and the others, who, at any time might say "Forget it," leaving HUD with millions of dollars in losses.

The tenants councils have been organized to protect the interests of the tenants. The Cleveland Terrace-Main Street Gardens Council is examining possible court action in the areas of security deposits unreturned, denial of section 8 subsidies (federal housing subsidies that assure that low-income tenants will only have to pay a quarter of their income for rent) and the lack of a maintenance and repair program for the 48 units. More importantly, they are drafting an agreement requiring that management make immediate repairs in all matters of health, safety and household expense. The first step is the signing of this agreement by Henry Pitt in the presence of HUD officials. This will be the basis for continuing dialogue between the landlords and tenants.

A spokesperson for the tenants council at this far northside project reports the following situation; "There are 358 section 236 units here. While the project is authorized for section 8 subsidies, no monies have been made available. We have many, many senior citizens on fixed incomes who are paying over two-thirds of their incomes into rents. Welfare mothers find themselves in the same situation. If this is low-income housing, then we don't understand who is supposed to benefit from it. We have met with local HUD officials. They said that there is nothing that they can do. We are going to keep fighting until the families around here begin to get what they are entitled to."□

No Heat, Rats — Landlord Will Be There At Rent Time

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) The bankers on the Emergency Financial Control Board have decided that low-income people and low-income neighborhoods have no place in New York City. Many landlords, realizing that now is a good time to make some fast money, are allowing their buildings to fall apart. The buildings are then abandoned or burned. The only commitment from such landlords is that they'll be there at rent time.

This is the case with the building Ms. Dorothy Karney lives in at 192 Greenpoint Ave. in the Greenpoint neighborhood of Brooklyn. Ms. Karney, the mother of two small children, has listened many times to her landlord, Lackhan Sanehi, tell her how he will fix up her apartment.

One of Ms. Karney's two small children pointed out a rat under the kitchen table leading to tenant pressure to get the landlord to exterminate.

Mr. Sanehi has taken the gas shortage very seriously. In January, the heat was off in the entire building for a week. It took the threat of a rent strike to get it turned back on.

Ms. Karney told *KEEP STRONG* that one day, one of her children pointed to something under the kitchen table. It turned out to be a huge rat. Other tenants have also complained of rats. Again, it took tenant pressure and the threat of a rent strike before the landlord had the city pest control come out to exterminate.

The results remain to be seen.□

LEGAL RIGHTS

"If I Am Convicted It's Not Because I Am Wrong"

(Halls, Tenn.) In 1974, a year after Reverend David Goodman and his ex-wife had separated, he was jailed and bound over to a grand jury in Ripley, Tenn. The grand jury threw his case out. Now, in 1977, he is bound to appear before another grand jury on February 7, to answer for the same charges he faced in 1974, stemming from the same incident.

The charge arose from an incident in which Rev. Goodman's ex-wife cashed a $50 check on his personal account at a drug store in Halls, Tenn. There was not enough money in the bank account to cover the check, and it bounced. Since his wife did not share a joint account with him and her name did not appear on his check, the Reverend refused to pay the drug store.

Rev. Goodman's ex-wife had, in fact, cashed several of his checks, most of them at the Bank of Halls where he had his account. Because the bank was not authorized to give money from his account to anyone but him, he asked the bank to replace his funds. They refused, and the bank president said he would have to sue them to get his money back, which he did.

After the grand jury threw out Goodman's charge and after Goodman filed suit against the bank, one of the banker's sons bought the same drug store where the $50 check had been cashed by Goodman's ex-wife in 1974. In July, 1975, the chief of police in Halls stopped Rev. Goodman on the street and read a warrant to him. He didn't advise him of his rights. He asked him to come to the station that afternoon. Mr. Nunn, the man who swore out the warrant, was there when he got there. The chief of police asked him to pay for the $50 check. He stated that he hadn't passed the check, that it wasn't signed by him and that he didn't think it was justice to make him pay for it. He said that he would try to get in touch with his ex-wife and have her take care of the check, but that he had already been through court on this same thing, and he'd go to jail before he'd pay it.

Rev. Goodman is currently out on bond. There have been two hearings, and this case has been bound over to the grand jury for Feb. 7. At the second hearing, Mr. Nunn testified that he knew Goodman's ex-wife signed and cashed the deposited check. Mr. Goodman feels the reason this case is being pursued "is that I sued the Bank of Halls, and they have a grudge against me. That is why I'm being tried again on the same charge. I believe my rights are being violated, and being tried again is double jeopardy in the eyes of the law. My attorney states that he believes that the trouble is coming from the Bank of Halls because one of the bankers' sons owns the drug store.

"I am waiting on answers to letters I have written to Senator Baker, Congressman Ed Jones and the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. I also wrote to the assistant attorney general of Nashville, Tenn. He said he didn't know how much help he would be, that his office has no power over the police or the courts, but he would consider this case further. If I am convicted, it is because I am a poor person, not because I am wrong. I am an ordained minister. My time is free to the people."□

David Goodman: "If I am convicted, it is because I am a poor person, not because I am wrong."

MILITARY RIGHTS

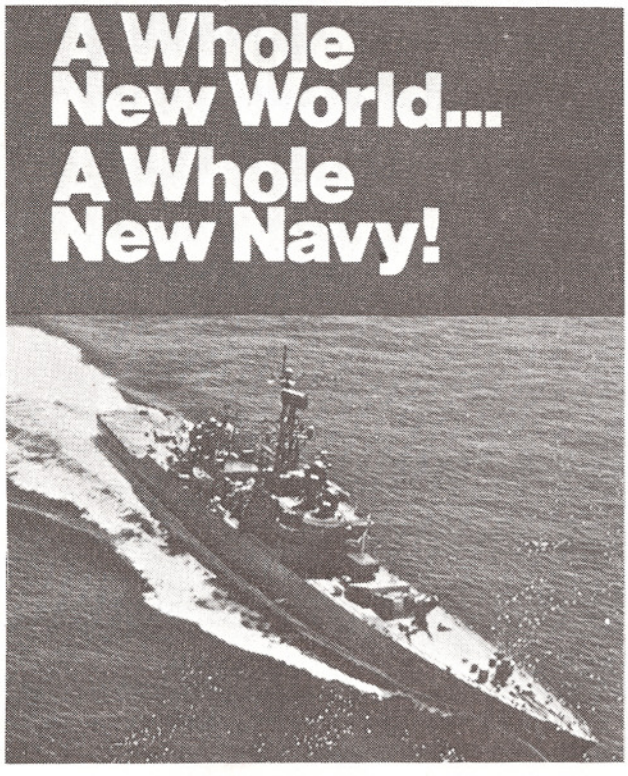
"Pride Goes Deep"

(Chicago, Ill.) "Join the New Action Army"; "Pride Goes Deep — Join the Navy"; "We Just Want a Few Good Men — Join the Marines." Ronnie Price was interested when he heard about the "new" navy. They said he could receive training in a field of his choice, so that when he enlisted he thought he was on his way to a successful career as a computer programmer.

Ronnie joined the Navy reserves for an eight year tour with six months active duty after basic training at Great Lakes. He didn't like the military regimentation or the way he and others were treated. It wasn't quite like the slick T.V. and magazine ads he had seen around. Nor did he receive adequate training in his chosen field. His dreams of success were rapidly fading.

After basic training Ronnie returned to Chicago and attended meetings every weekend. Shortly after, Navy personnel began to harass him about the length of his hair, his beard and mustache and his general appearance. He was no longer receiving training in computer programming.

It wasn't long before Ronnie decided he wanted to get out of the Navy. After he told them, they said there was no way he could, and that if he was stubborn they would bring him up to active duty and ship him overseas.



Ronnie got a job to support his wife and child. The Navy has tracked him to his job. They have written letters to his boss that the FBI is tracking him down and that he will soon be classified as a deserter and sent to a federal penitentiary.

Ronnie lives in fear and anger. He joined the Navy when he was young and because he believed it had become an enlightened institution and could give him the tools he needed to live a fruitful life. He feels now that he was wrong. He also feels that the only way he can get out of his military obligation is through a less-than-honorable or bad conduct discharge which would follow him the rest of his life.□

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Retaliation At Stateville

(Joliet,Ill.) In the wake of the fatal stabbing of a guard at Stateville early last month, reports of retaliation and wholesale repression against the entire inmate population have come to the attention of *KEEP STRONG.*

Local newspapers have reported the official response that declared the incidents a "test of the new governor and new administration," and have labeled "a conspiracy of gangs in B-house" as the reason for the murder of Lt. Burd which took place in D-house and the stabbing which took place in F-house. In addition, the newspapers report that three inmates are being held for the murder.

Below *KEEP STRONG* reprints excerpts from two letters written from Stateville. The first was written to Cedric Russell, executive director of the Illinois Prisons and Jails Project, a progressive prison watch group. The second letter was addressed to Governor Thompson and is in response to the official reports given to the press.

Dear Mr. Russell:

"I am assigned to the college program in C-house. Although the Lt. Burd incident occurred in

D-house, the entire population was locked-up as a mass-disciplinary measure. We are confined to our overcrowded cells 24 hours a day. Six human beings cannot long endure such population pressures in a small 10' x 14' cell without some sort of adverse behavioral patterns developing. We receive no exercise, no showers, no haircuts, and no shaves which forces us to go on visits smelling and looking like bums.

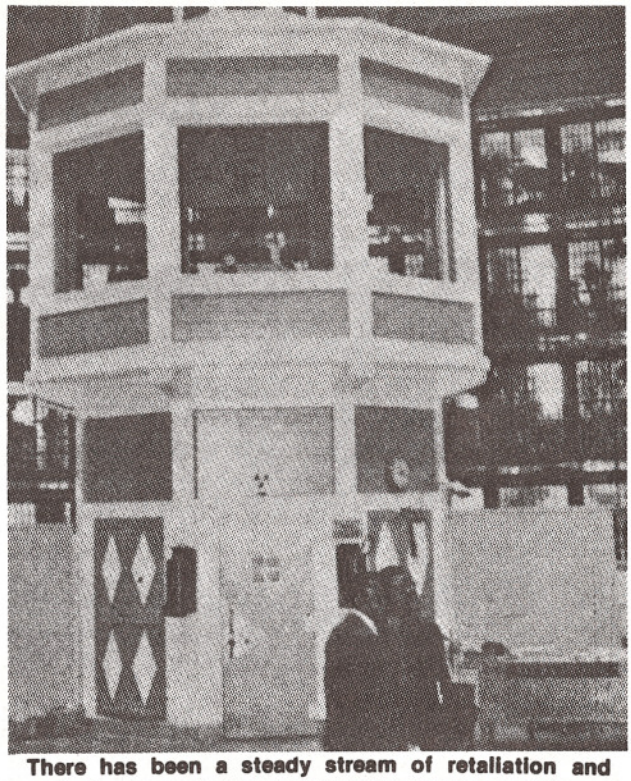
"Our commissary privileges have been taken away yet they refuse to distribute basic necessities like soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tobacco, matches, coffee, or write-outs. Most of these items are supposed to be furnished to us by the state. Sick-call has been totally eliminated, and we have no way of getting any type of medication (even a simple aspirin).

"They've cut our food rations by half by simply eliminating certain basic items from our meals. All we get for lunch now is one sandwich and one carton of milk. All we get for supper is a small dipper of beans or such and 2 slices of bread — no meat and nothing to drink.... In sum: the dietary restrictions imposed upon us have the effect of putting us all on "disciplinary rations" similar to what was once imposed as "hole-time" punishment.

"They refuse to pass out any eating utensils. Dirty plates, empty milk cartons, and garbage accumulate in our cells since they refuse to make trash pick-ups. We are told to throw the refuse out in front of our cells where it accumulates for days, spoiling and drawing roaches and rats.

"The most frustrating aspect of the above disciplinary sanctions is that they were/are summarily imposed upon the whole population. This practice of mass-punishment is inconsistent with the policy the administration articulated back in 1973. In the wake of the 1973 riot lock-up (which lasted 7 months establishing a modern penal record), the Illinois prison system adopted the so-called 'unit system' policy with respect to cell-house administration. Each cell-house was to be 'isolated' from all others and was to function as a mini-prison within a prison. Fences and walls were built, electronic gates and cameras were installed, programs and routines were re-scheduled (separate dining facilities, etc.), and the security force was beefed up — all of these measures were taken to facilitate the implementation of the unit system which would render the mass lock-up concept a thing of the past.

"Under the unit system, each cell-house would be administered on an individual basis — i.e. if an incident occurred in D-house, D-house would be the only cell-house affected in any subsequent lock-up and investigation.



There has been a steady stream of retaliation and wholesale repression against the inmate population.

"But look at what's happening now! The first major incident occurs in 3 years, and they lock up the whole joint again! What happened to their committment to their unit system? They claim that they are having a prison-wide investigation but this is demonstrably false — there has been no investigation in C-house. I'm sure there is an investigation going on in D-house, but what is C-house doing on lock-up? I wish someone would tell me why and let me know when it will end..."

Dear Sir, Mr. Thompson:

"If this letter is hard to decipher it is because I am attempting to write you through clouds of tear gas and mace that the officers here at Stateville have sprayed in retaliation of the killing of the Lt. and the stabbing of another. The incidents in question happened in cell-houses E and D. I am on segregation in cell-house B. Today and yesterday the officers of this prison came to B-house and beat many of the inmates for no reason.

You went on T.V. and stated that the killings were a test of your administration. That was the most vicious, treacherous, ill-fated lie a human

being has ever told. What you didn't tell the public was that the Lt. killed has been jumping on people since he made rank. He was, in fact, one of the leaders. Today I watched and was a part of the beatings that took place in B-house. I have a list of most of those who participated. I counted 22 officers equipped with shields, helmets, clubs, mace and tear gas.

You said the killings were a test. The killing was a sign of people tired of getting jumped on and misused. When those inmates were killed last year, was that a test? Was it a test to cut off a man's water for four or five days? Is it a test to take a man out of his cell in 15 degree weather naked?

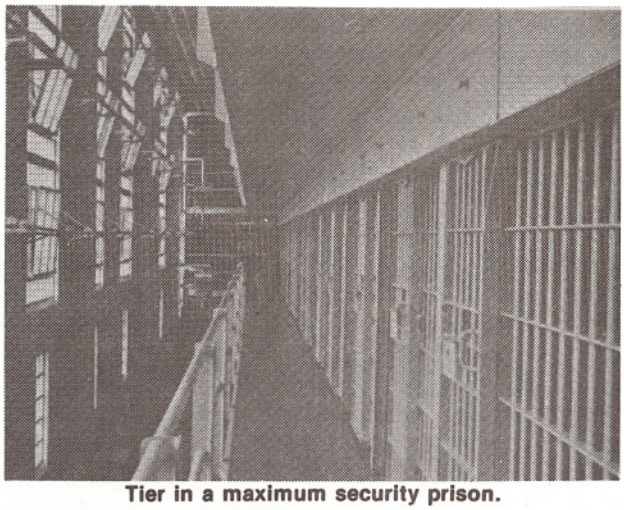
"If you were any kind of a reformist as you claim, you would order a full investigation at this prison, not only to find out who did it, but why. And from that you will get the answer to why all this other stuff is happening."□

Marion Penitentiary Control Unit Site Of Beatings

(Marion, Ill.) The Control Unit Treatment Program at the federal penitentiary at Marion, Illinois has become infamous for its behavioral modification techniques. Why are the control units at Marion any different from the solitary confinement cells we have always heard about?

First, they are "holes" for the entire U.S. prison system, not just for one prison. Secondly, prisoners are being transferred to this "hole" from other federal prisons, specifically in response to their organizing for human conditions in other federal prisons. In September, Victor Bono was sent to the control unit from Atlanta Federal Prison. In October, George Blue, president of the National Prisoners Association, was sent to the control unit from Atlanta. Odell Bennett, one of the Leavenworth Brothers, was recently sent to the control unit after a hunger strike by prisoners in McNeil Island Federal Prison, and Mark Easter, a leader of a hunger strike to protest conditions at El Reno Federal Prison, was just sent to the control unit.

The extreme deprivation of all personal property, visits, mail, etc.— is summed up by



Tier in a maximum security prison.

Earl Gaither, a prisoner in the control unit, who describes in a letter, "Living in the control unit is impossible for a free person to understand. The only way you could understand is to go into your bathroom, lock the door, lie down in the bathtub and stay there for three years."

For punishment, prisoners are put into "box-car" cells, which are sound proof and fresh air proof. Hot and cold air can be blown into the cells to torture prisoners. Also, prisoners are drugged into submission. Recently, several incidents of severe beatings by guards have occurred, and Lecount Bly, a control unit prisoner who was transferred to the Springfield, Missouri Federal Medical Center, was found hung in his cell. Norman Carlson, director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, has prevented face-to-face interviews with the beaten prisoners and their witnesses, although he has allowed face-to-face interviews with guards and Marion officials. A recent letter from the prison reports:

"During the first two weeks of 1977, five prisoners have complained of druggings. The drug, apparently administered in the food or drink, causes dysfunction of the nervous system with violent symptoms. One prisoner, upon complaining, was told, 'It is significant that only you report this,' after which he was interviewed for the second time in recent months as to the possibility of transferral to the Federal Medical Center at Springfield, Missouri. Three prisoners have been threatened with beatings. Two more have had their properties seized. One is receiving rejection notices on letters almost daily; the letters from friends and supporters are being rejected as contraband correspondence by the prison officials. This particular prisoner is the lone surviving witness to a murder by prison officials and fears for his own life. The repression continues."□

Model Law Presented To Police Spy Conference

(Chicago, Ill.) A model bill, entitled "Political Rights Protection Act of 1977," highlighted last month's National Conference Against Police Spying which was held in Chicago and attended by more than 300 people. The model ordinance, put together by staff from the Center for National Security Studies (a working research group committed to reform of U.S. intelligence agencies) is to be circulated in cities throughout the country in a determined attempt to build a national movement against police spying.

The ordinance is intended to prohibit political spying by local red squads and to regulate, generally, police conduct that violates 1st amendment rights to free speech, freedom of the press, assembly and association.

A significant part of the draft legislation is intended to put limitations on criminal investigations. The authors of the ordinance maintain that often political spying is carried out on the basis that the police need to investigate "criminal conspiracies." However, under the proposed ordinance, if the police suspect someone has committed a criminal act and their investigation may lead to collecting information about a person's first amendment activities, they must get written authorization from the local corporation counsel to do so. Such investigations can be conducted for not more than 90 days.

The proposed bill prohibits local police from engaging in political spying, the maintenance of intelligence units (red squads), harassment, entrapment and joint intelligence operations with other local, state and federal agencies (FBI, IRS, CIA) to collect personal information on individuals. All statutes which call for punishment for speech (such as incitement to overthrow the government) are repealed under the model law since these laws are often used as a pretext for conducting political surveillance.

While the proposed ordinance allows local police departments to conduct inquiries into planned demonstrations for the purposes of "ensuring public health and safety," authority for such an inquiry must be obtained in writing from the mayor. Information about the demonstration may be obtained only from public sources and is limited to details about time, date, place, number of persons, etc. Photographs by the police of any demonstration are explicitly prohibited.

The model law would prohibit local police (like the Chicago red squad member above) from engaging in political spying.

Use of electronic surveillance is outlawed and the use of undercover informants in criminal investigations must be authorized by a court order and will only be issued where there is reasonable evidence that the target may be involved in criminal activity. Authorization for use of informants is limited to 30 days and may be extended only on re-application to the court.

Finally, the model legislation prohibits destruction of any files unless by court order and orders the police to disclose the contents of any personal file to an individual upon written request. The police, however, may withhold portions of the file if they believe it will jeopardize the privacy of others. Use of information collected through informants and undercover surveillance is restricted and may only be introduced at a hearing or trial after each party has been given a copy of the court order and application under which the surveillance was conducted. This must be done at least 20 days before the trial.□

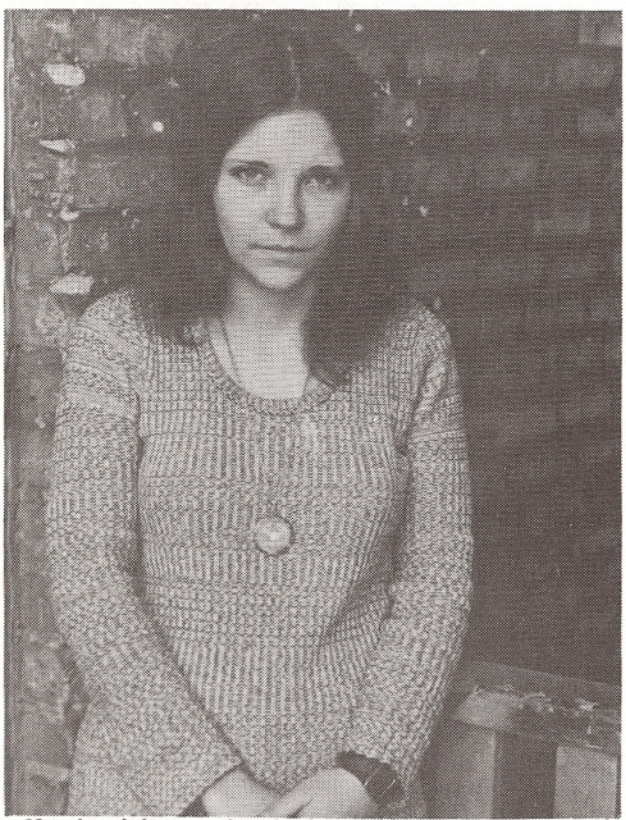
EDUCATION

Youth Turned Away From Senn High School

(Chicago, Ill.) Mandy Johnson is a 16 year old woman who lives in Uptown with her small baby. When Mandy became pregnant she was attending Senn High School. She was told that she could not continue to go to classes until after the baby was born.

When the baby was old enough, Mandy went to Senn to re-enroll. She was told that she couldn't get back into school because she had been out too long. Frustrated by the lack of concern the school administrators showed for her development and confused by their skirting of the law in refusing to allow her to attend, Mandy went to work at daily pay. While she worked her mother watched the baby.

Unsatisfied with this situation and determined to get an education, Mandy made repeated attempts to find a school that would take her. She was fortunate to find an alternative school in her neighborhood which provides quality education.



Mandy Johnson is determined to get a decent education.

The public school administrators' lack of concern for the development of young minds has been the target of many community leaders and residents for years. It is a recurrent theme in the lives of thousands of young people in their struggle to develop the tools necessary for survival.□

Substitutes Plan "Sick Day" Protest

(Chicago, Ill.) Substitutes United for Better Schools (SUBS) unanimously voted for a "sick day protest" scheduled for March 9, 1977 at their December membership meeting, if the grievances of Chicago's thousands of substitute teachers are not resolved by both the Board of Education and the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU).

The March 9 action comes more than a year after SUBS' first major protest demonstration on January 26, 1976. While the just SUBS "sick day" led to meetings with the officers of the CTU and representatives of the superintendent of schools, there is no real improvement in the treatment of substitute teachers in the city. In fact, since January, 1976, the situation of hundreds of substitutes has grown worse, according to George Schmidt, a member of this progressive teacher organization. The Board of Education is using every power it has to save money at the expense of substitutes, while the CTU has refused to intervene.

This year's action will include day-to-day, cadre and FTB (full-time basis) substitutes, as well as parents and students who wish to express their concern at the cutbacks in public education in the city. Meetings with school superintendent Hannon and with officers of the teachers union on that day have been requested. SUBS also will attend the regular meeting of the Board of Education in the afternoon and present a public paper on their grievances, needs and demands.

The basic demands of SUBS include pay equal to that of regular teachers; fringe benefits including holidays, vacation pay, and the right to join the Board of Education's hospitalization

plan; and the respect and support in the schools necessary to teach the children what they have been trained to teach. At the same time, SUBS is demanding that the union give substitutes full and equal representation in the CTU house of delegates, on the union's executive board and on important union committees. Finally, they want a dues reduction, so that substitutes who wish to be union members do not have to pay large amounts of union dues in advance.

"On March 9," they say, "We're all going to get white lung disease and go to the Board of Education to demand justice!"□

NYC: Overcrowded Schools = "Progress & Economic Health"

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) Construction on the Northeast Brooklyn High School began in 1970. In 1973 it was stopped, and in 1977 it is still stopped.

The only academic public high school operating in the district is Eastern District High School, 227 Marcy Ave., which was built in 1905 and is in very bad shape. The capacity in the main building is 1,948. Currently the enrollment is 2,850. Other high schools that Brooklyn youth go to — Eli Whitney, Automatic Vocational, Ft. Hamilton and Franklin D. Roosevelt — are either overcrowded or very far from the community.

City officials, when asked why the desperately needed high school has not been completed, have given various responses; Mr. Paul Fromer from the Office of the Chancellor-H.S. Division, Buildings and Construction, said "Northeast is 66% complete. The budget crunch froze money for all new construction. Northeast is a number one priority. . . the school is very sorely needed."

Mr. Dicker, principal of Eastern District High School agreed with Mr. Fromer and added, "$13 million has already been spent on Northeast Brooklyn High School, but it needs $10 million more. The people have marched, protested and sent letters to various officials." However, "There is no projection date for resuming construction. It is a top priority — Hopefully within one or two years, money will come from either city or federal public works," according to Rita Barrish, from the Community Planning Board — District 1 — Education Section.

Yet, informed sources say that Deputy Mayor Zuccotti wants to seal off all the openings in the building and leave it as it is — incomplete and unused. This would involve hiring a private construction company and cost one half as much a completing the new building.

The feeling of community residents is nearly unanimous that while there is great need for a new school, the education of the youth remains one of the last things on a long list of the things the city will deal with. Northeast Brooklyn High School is another of the city's "number one priorities," with no projection of where the money is going to come from to finish building it. In the meantime, our youth run the streets, getting into drugs and fights, while the city continues along the road to "progress and economic recovery."□

Even though the only academic public high school in the district is overcrowded, construction on the Northeast Brooklyn High School has been frozen.

HEALTH NEWS

No Heat – Several Towns Evacuated

(Beckley, W. Va.) In the wake of severe cold throughout most of the country last month, reports of fuel shortages and its effects continue to mount. In West Virginia, in the area around Beckley, several small towns were forced to evacuate their residents to armories and a few private homes because the gas lines were frozen, and oil shipment into the area was blocked.

The continued effects of fuel shortages around the country mount while in West Virginia some families have been without heat for up to three weeks.

Residents in the affected areas have been told that the lack of heat is a result of two things: shut-offs by the Cabot Gas Co. and no fuel oil deliveries. Cabot Gas, which services an area stretching up to Cleveland, Ohio blames lack of natural pressure, saying this stems from the low capacity of the gas lines, which need to be replaced, and the low volume of gas available.

While that service has been cut off repeatedly, Transco, an interstate natural gas company, is moving to raise interstate prices as high as in-state prices. This will automatically raise consumers' bills. Many industries have been ordered to close temporarily, forcing people out of work. Nationally, three million people were laid off, as January ended, due to the cold weather and the alleged power shortage.

Bill Worthington, regional director of the Black Lung Association, who spends much of his time travelling through the South, was recently in the area; "Two weeks ago I was there, and a couple of small towns ran out of gas. The gas lines froze up, and they had to evacuate all the people from out of these two small towns, and all of them were disabled people on pensions and young kids.

"All around this area, this is one of the hardest winters that's ever been known. It's a shame that the government, both state and federal, hasn't responded like they should have. They're just furnishing vehicles to evacuate people and say they will do something as soon as the weather permits, but really they haven't responded like they should have.

"One of the things that's bothering me about preparing for these kinds of things is that the area has had more snow, record snow, than it has in a long time. The whole area is noted for flooding. I don't see the state or federal government looking out for the spring rains, spring floods and so forth, which, again, is going to throw people out of their homes."□

"The Chicago Maternity Center Story"

(Chicago, Ill.) The world premier of *The Chicago Maternity Center Story*, a Chicago-made independent documentary, the newest release of Kartemquin Films, will be held February 13, at 2 p.m. at the Three Penny Cinema. For over 75 years, the Chicago Maternity Center provided quality, low-cost health care through its home delivery child birth service to over 100,000 White, Black and Latina mothers throughout Chicago. This film, produced over a four year period, documents the life and death of this famous Chicago institution.

A group of mothers begin by telling why the patient-centered, low-cost preventive care pro-

vided by the Center was worth fighting for. The film goes on with a moving presentation of the Center in action during a difficult home delivery. Excerpts from "Fight for Life," a Hollywood film made about the center in 1939, help to present its history and contributions to obstetrics. Historical photographs and magazine ads work together in a ten minute animated section to summarize the recent development of health care into an industry, and provide the facts behind Northwestern Hospital's interest and involvement in the Center. Black, Latina and White mothers confront the Center's Board of Directors as they fight to keep the Center open. An expensive new women's hospital is built, and the Center is closed, but the struggle for good health care continues.

This film documents the life and death of the famous Chicago Maternity Center.

The premiere screening will be followed by a panel discussion including Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *The American Health Empire*, a past staff member of the Chicago Maternity Center and several community health activists. Also invited is a representative from the Board of Directors of Northwestern Hospital, the same board that is criticized in the film for its role in closing the Center. This is the first of a five-part city-wide series of screenings and discussions of the film sponsored by fifteen community organizations and health clinics. Funded through the Illinois Humanities Council, the screenings are set for Pilsen, Logan Square, Lakeview, West Town and the University of Illinois medical center, and will extend through February and March.□

RANK'N FILE

For the last several months KEEP STRONG *has been running a series called "Labor Unions: Chicago Style." Beginning this month, to highlight the quickly growing phenomenon of rank and file struggle for democratization of this country's large, bureaucratic labor unions,* KEEP STRONG *introduces a new column — Rank 'N File. This month our focus is on the quickly approaching steelworkers' election, scheduled for February 8, and the IBEW local 1031 which has been the subject of the original series on Chicago unions.*

United IBEW Workers Announce Candidates For Local Election

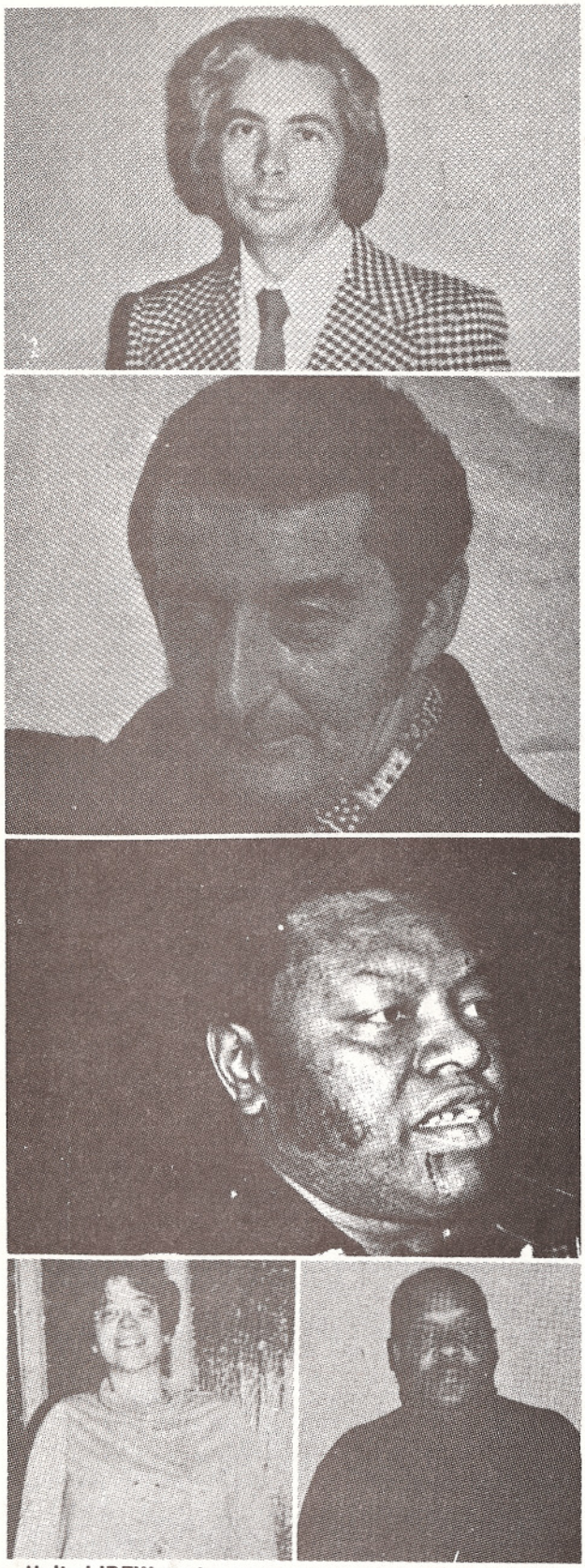
(Chicago, Ill.) The United IBEW Workers, a rank and file caucus of union members, filed a lawsuit in federal court here January 3, charging five union officials of the IBEW local 1031 on three counts of deprivation of the rights and privileges of the union's local membership. The suit grows out of a dispute over the vote taken at the December 21, 1976 union meeting where the union by-laws were changed using shaky election procedures.

According to caucus spokespersons, literature urging a yes vote was freely handed out along with ballots, while those who were opposed to the by-law changes were stopped from distributing their literature. They were forced to go outside in sub-zero weather by the union's business agent.

During the meeting, Richard Deason, the union's new business manager, successfully cut off discussion on the disputed proposals by allowing only one statement against. At that point he allegedly declared, "I'm tired of this crap," and called the vote.

In addition, it is claimed that many people did not receive ballots to vote with and were not given an opportunity to correct this situation before the vote was taken. When a head count was requested it was refused.

The primary by-law change being contested



United IBEW worker candidates: (top to bottom) Neil Burke for President, Everett Biegalski for Business Manager, Chester Smith for Vice President, Genevieve Fields (not pictured) for Recording Secretary, Esther Morales for Financial Secretary (bottom left) and Tom Gresham for Treasurer (bottom right.)

makes a steward an appointed position. If this change is upheld, stewards, who process grievances for the workers under the collective bargaining agreement, will no longer be elected, but will be chosen by the business manager of the local. Many IBEW union members believe that this is a reaction by the entrenched union leadership to recent victories of stewards supported by the rank and file.

Meanwhile, on January 22, over 500 union members attended the spirited New Years pre-election party sponsored by the United IBEW workers. An independent slate of candidates was announced for the local's April elections. They include Neil Burke for President, Chester Smith for Vice-President, Everett Bielgalski for Business Manager, Esther Morales for Financial Secretary, Genevieve Fields for Recording Secretary and Tom Gresham for Treasurer.

There has been much controversy in the union over the effectiveness of the current officials (See *KEEP STRONG*, November and December, 1976). Their relationship to the city power structure has been questioned by some, and hope has been stirred that with the resignation of former Business Manager-President Maurice Perlin (to become an appellate court judge), it will be possible to bring democracy back to the union.□

Sadlowski Bid: Signal For Change?

(Chicago, Ill.) The AFL-CIO's largest and most powerful industrial union will go to the polls February 8 to elect a new president. More than any other single decision, the results of the bitter campaign could signal a new surge toward the militancy and social activism that characterized labor's early years.

The Sadlowski-McBride contest is the most controversial election the AFL-CIO has seen in years. The conservative wing of the federation, led by chief George Meany, has bitterly attacked Sadlowski, challenger for President of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and donated generously to McBride's campaign coffer (the candidate backed by outgoing President I.W. Abel).

Meany himself, in his first overt entry into an AFL-CIO union election, has publicly attacked Sadlowski for accepting contributions from "employers and other outsiders who have no right to meddle in the affairs" of the USWA — a reference to Democratic Party liberals who have given money to Sadlowski.

The 38 year old Sadlowski, now director of the USWA's 120,000 strong Chicago area District 31, has a history as a rebel. He launched his rank and file organization, Steelworkers Fightback, in his 1973-74 campaign for district director — a post he won by a two-to-one margin in a second election, after losing the first go-round and proving extensive election fraud.

The key economic issue between the two candidates is the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) signed by Abel in 1973. It outlawed strikes by mandating binding arbitration to settle unresolved contract issues. Industry and top USWA officials contend the ENA has brought prosperity to the industry and the union. They say it has eliminated a boom-bust pattern in which steel was stockpiled in expectation of strikes, and workers were laid off after contract settlements because of the resulting oversupply.

Sadlowski and his supporters — outraged by the fact that Abel signed away their right to strike until 1980 without a union vote — believe they have lost their only trump card in contract bargaining. And they point to recent layoffs around the country as evidence that the boom-bust cycle continues.

Sadlowski's other complaints revolve around lack of democracy in the union — the fact that members cannot vote to ratify contracts — and what he calls inadequate leadership in improving workplace health and safety.

Increases in membership dues and officers' salaries are also sore spots. At the last convention, in 1974, pandemonium broke loose when the chair slammed down his gavel to railroad through a dues hike and similarly force passage of a salary increase for officers to $75,000 per year.

A Sadlowski victory is likely to provide new hope for existing reform movements in other unions and is being closely watched by union activists nationally. Many feel that the growing desire to put democracy back into labor unions depends on the success of Sadlowski's organization to carry on with his campaign commitments whether he wins or not.□

FIGHTING CITY HALL

City Council: "We Must Protect The Landlords"

(Chicago, Ill.) On Thursday, January 27, the City Council's Building and Zoning Committee defeated a proposed ordinance sponsored by Alderman Dick Simpson of the 44th ward. This ordinance would have made lock-outs by landlords a criminal offense, subjecting them to arrest and a possible prison sentence and/or fine if a tenant was locked out of his or her apartment. There was broad community support for this ordinance with over 40 representatives of community organizations around the city prepared to testify at the hearing.

Opposition to the ordinance was spearheaded by Alderman Stone of the 50th ward, Roti of the 1st and Natarus of the 42nd. Their argument centered around the notion that landlords should not be made to suffer penalties if a tenant can not pay rent and that the legal eviction process often takes too long. Their basic premise was that landlords need to be protected from unscrupulous tenants.

The City Council's Building and Zoning Committee defeated an ordinance proposed by Alderman Dick Simpson which would have made lock-outs illegal.

The supporters of this proposed ordinance say the law has been stacked in favor of the landlords and that the new one would afford an opportunity to even up the scales. They point out that, first of all, most tenants who are locked out are not behind in their rent, but are being retaliated against for fighting for decent living conditions in the buildings that they live in. Secondly, the action of the city council is nothing more than a sanction for landlords to break the law. Laws already exist which make lock-outs illegal, but as a civil matter, meaning that the only remedy is through civil courts, a process which often takes up to ten months — too long for a tenant to recover property lost in a lock-out. The whole idea was to give the police legal authority to act to prevent tenants from being locked out in the first place.□

Bankers Move To Tighten Control Over NYC

(New York City, N.Y.) In a move to tighten their control over the city and the development of the masterplan for "urban development," several prominent bankers met with Governor Hugh Carey last month. While the city officials were partying in Washington, D.C., celebrating the inauguration of their new-found hero, President Jimmy Carter, the city bankers delivered a seven page memorandum to the Governor at his midtown office. Present at the meeting were Felix Rohatyan, Chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corp.; David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank; Walter Wreston, Chairman of Citibank; Ellmore C. Patterson, Chairman of Morgan Guaranty; John Hannon, Jr., President of Banker's Trust and Governor Carey. Conveniently, no elected officials of the city were invited to the meeting.

Among the proposals the bankers set forth were: 1) a five-year extension in the federal loan program; and 2) the supervision for the next twenty years of the city's finances by a non-elected panel acceptable to the Wall Street community. The bankers seem to feel that "economic recovery" of the city can be attained only through the "financial stability" that their proposals will bring about. In the past year we have seen some of the results of their proposals for "recovery." Such things as the tuition for the city university system, the shutdown of daycare centers, the layoff of thousands of city workers, further deterioration of municipal hospitals, the closing of fire stations, and the continued destruction of our communities are the direct result of policies of "financial stability."

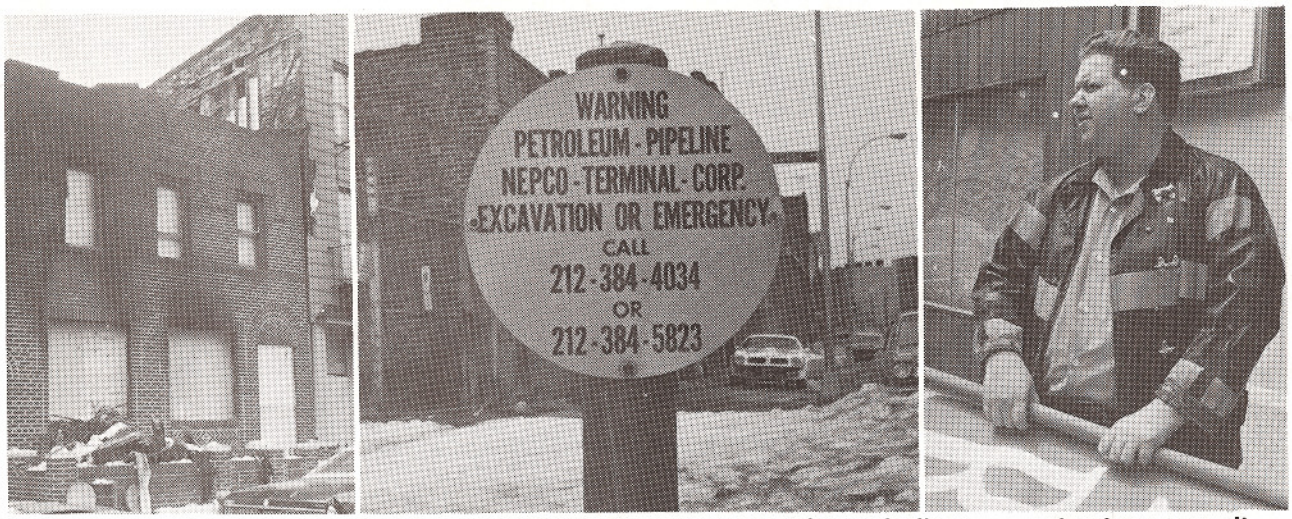
New York City Mayor Beame was at first very indignant about the bankers' proposals. As the days passed, he moved closer towards agreement with them. Now he seems to have "seen the light" and to be in full agreement with the bankers' demands to have control of all city finances through the extension of the powers of the Emergency Financial Control Board.

While residents all over the city, in their communities, fight to keep the most basic necessities of survival functioning (fire departments, schools, hospitals), city officials have once again yielded to the demands of the rich bankers who are actively moving on their masterplan — for the destruction of New York City.□

"While The City Leaders Fiddle — The Community Burns"

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) It has been over a month since the people of Northside and representatives of the city, including Fire Commissioner O'Hagen and Deputy Mayor Zuccotti, signed an agreement guaranteeing the people of Northside adequate fire protection. According to the agreement, by a Christmas Eve deadline, the city would relocate one pumper truck and six firemen in the People's Firehouse at 136 Wythe Ave., the former quarters of Engine Company 212. Since signing the agreement, the city has failed to live up to any of the provisions.

Recently 150 firemen were rehired by the city. Checking into what the rehired firemen were assigned to, a *KEEP STRONG* reporter found out from informed sources within the fire department that 65 out of the 150 firemen had been assigned to light duty work. This means they are doing such things as chauffering the fire commissioner, his deputies and chiefs, and clerical work at the main offices of the fire department.



One of the three major fires in the Northside area (left) where a petroleum pipeline runs under the community (center), while People's Fire Chief Adam Veneski (right) and other community residents continue to demand decent fire protection.

During last month alone there were three major fires in the area. On Christmas Eve at 225 Nassau St., ten families were forced out of their homes as a fire blazed out of control. Four days later 36 families, many of them having just moved in as a result of a previous fire, had to evacuate their building at 408 S. 2nd St. Just two weeks later, on January 11, there was another serious fire at Driggs and N. 8th St., not more than four blocks from the People's Firehouse. Because there was no company located at the firehouse, the fire got out of control. Witnesses at the scene said that due to one of the fire hydrants being defective, firemen had to use hydrants three blocks away, resulting in the loss of valuable time.

A firefighting company at the People's Firehouse would have served to move effectively to control these fires. This would have meant three buildings still standing, instead of the three empty shells of buildings that now stand at these sites, to be converted into more vacant lots.

The city seems intent on violating the agreement as long as possible. Instead of dealing concretely and swiftly with the problem by installing some of the rehired firemen in the People's Firehouse and reactivating 212 as an engine company, the fire commissioner and city government are coming up with various schemes to move rescue companies from other parts of the city into the People's Firehouse. This would seriously jeopardize the safety of the people in those communities.

Other communities have learned from the example of Northside; struggles are being waged to keep Rescue Company #4 at its base in Maspeth, Queens and Rescue Company #2 in Ft. Greene.

At a recent meeting at the People's Firehouse, community residents vowed to continue the struggle to get their engine company back. Recent actions have included demonstrations at a speaking engagement of Commissioner O'Hagen, and at the swearing in of Brooklyn borough President, Howard Golden.

"We want the borough president to make a commitment to back the Ft. Greene people. We want him to take a stand," said Adam Veneski, the People's Fire Chief. Mr. Veneski went on to say, "The plan to transfer Rescue Company #2 to the People's Firehouse would not solve anything. Rescue Company #2 serves all of Brooklyn, Staten Island and Lower Manhattan. Last year alone they had 45,000 calls which would mean they would be out of Northside too much to be effective. We rejected that plan eight months ago."

He said that the People's Firehouse would continue to put pressure on city officials until Northside has adequate fire protection.

On Friday, January 28, Northside and Ft. Greene residents went to Kings County Supreme Court and successfully blocked the city in its attempt to move Rescue Company #2 from Ft. Greene to the People's Firehouse.

As one community resident said, "We've come too far and learned too much to stop now. We are going to continue this struggle until we have our engine company and then start to work on some of the other problems in the community."□

Three Who Rule Chicago

"21 Coalition" Challenges Arrogance of Power

Speaking at the ISC Community Forum last month, 43rd ward alderman Marty Oberman explained the "triumvirate" that holds the reins of power after Daley's death. Three men, Richard J. Daley, Jr., (the mayor's son), Mike Bilandic and Tommy Donovan now wield the immense power once in the hands of the now deceased mayor. Oberman described the three as the heads of an 11th ward clique that still tightly controls patronage (political jobs) in the city. The mayor's son, Richard Daley, Jr., has taken over the powerful post of 11th ward committeeman while Bilandic has become the acting mayor and the machine's candidate for the top city post in the next election. The third member of the clique is the mysterious Donovan, who as Daley's assistant in charge of patronage, controls the purse strings on the political jobs that hold the political machine together. According to Oberman, a leading independent in the city council, the three-man rule means that virtually no change in the city power structure has taken place following Daley's death.

Meanwhile, the city-wide Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan, an organization representing thousands of people from the Black, Latino and poor White communities, has successfully challenged what Coalition spokespersons call the "arrogance of power." The new triumvirate, and especially mayoral candidate Mike Bilandic, is directly responsible for the city's overall economic development plan (OEDP). The OEDP would qualify Chicago to receive potentially millions of dollars of federal funds for public works projects that could in turn provide much

Acting Mayor Mike Bilandic, one of the three who rule Chicago, at the January 8, 1976 Chicago Plan Commission meeting while he was still an alderman. Inset is Bilandic as mayor.

Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan members and supporters at press conference last month. From left to right: Bob Lucas, Jack Hart, Susan Rosenblum (standing), Marion Stamps, Art Vasquez and Ald. Marty Oberman (43rd ward).

needed jobs for Chicago's unemployed.

The plan which Chicago submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, however, advocated projects that ignored Chicago's priority need for low-income housing and provided no guarantees that public works jobs would go to the unemployed. At a press conference held last month, the Coalition announced that it was meeting with officials from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to discuss their objections to Bilandic's plan. Coalition spokespersons now report that the federal authorities have found that the Bilandic plan does not meet federal guidelines requiring that minorities select their own representatives to participate in the OEDP Committee, and that the Committee also include representatives of the unemployed and underemployed sectors of the community.

In other words, because the city of Chicago failed to comply with community-input guidelines, thousands of Chicagoans will remain jobless. ISC coordinator Slim Coleman, a member of the organizing committee of the Coalition, commented, "It is simply a case of arrogance of power. These few powerful men, and Bilandic is near the top of the list, simply felt they did not have to even consult the poor and working communities of Chicago about the future of our city. Instead they were hell-bent on continuing the policy of building up middle and upper-income housing around the loop and letting us in the neighborhoods go without desperately needed jobs and low-income housing."

Besides excluding community representation in the development of the plan, the Bilandic proposal failed to include dissenting views on any of the "priority projects" listed in the OEDP. Nevertheless, there has been vigorous dissent and resistance to such proposed projects as the Crosstown Expressway, the Chicago 21 Plan (particularly Dearborn Park), the regional shopping center in Uptown and urban renewal projects in Pilsen, the near northside and West Town.

The Coalition has offered an alternative to the city in which it directed the city to establish elected community planning councils, on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. These planning councils with representatives of the community could veto projects they found undesirable for their neighborhood and could negotiate with incoming businesses and contractors to provide jobs to unemployed residents. Bilandic, however, appears unwilling to move to adopt the Coalition's alternative and make Chicago eligible for the badly-needed federal money.□

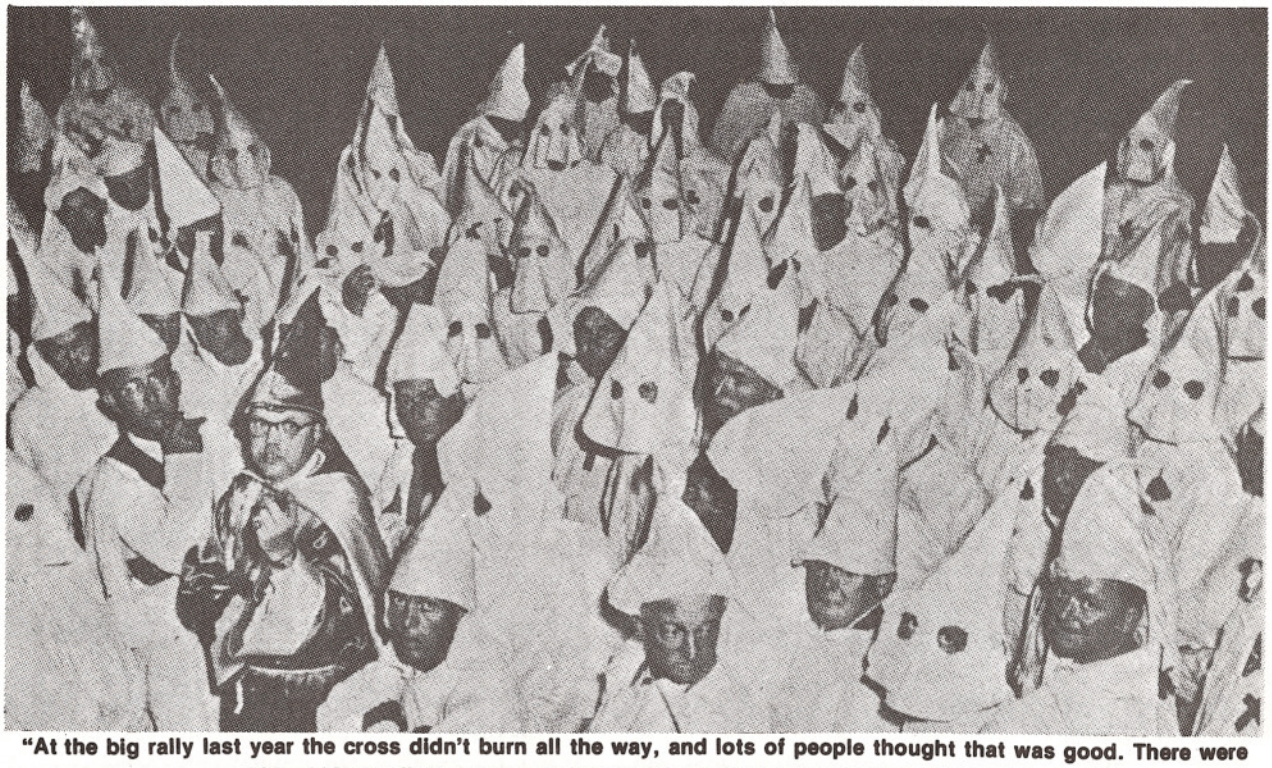
"The Cross Didn't Burn"

KKK Seeks to Organize Harlan County

The Ku Klux Klan has always been around Harlan County, Kentucky holding large rallies in the past but never able to get a foothold except among individuals involved in law enforcement and the local power structure. This month KEEP STRONG *interviewed several people from Harlan who had been there recently and others who have visited. Quotes from those interviewed follow. Names are not being revealed because of threat of retaliation.*

"Right now the Klan has sort of quieted down. They quit harassing folks like they were. I don't think it's gone, but you know, they've just quieted down."

"At Lynch — in the Lynch, Benhanna and Cumberland area of Harlan County — the Klan tried to pull off a demonstration, and the people just rose up in arms and said they weren't going to have that stuff there, they weren't going to demonstrate. The Lynch people heard about a rally they planned about a month ago. They said there was Cumberland people there, and they



"At the big rally last year the cross didn't burn all the way, and lots of people thought that was good. There were 200—300 standing up, clapping and saying, 'We told you it wouldn't work.'

said no, it wasn't going to happen, and it didn't happen and since then two or three people that are known people have announced it in the paper that they quit. Things were beginning to look like it was going to get real hot. But there's no mistake, the Klan is still here, a bunch of the Klansmen are still here. Now I think they're waiting on the weather to recruit to get to be a big enough force to really do a lot of demonstrating."

"It is believed that a lot of the policemen are Klansmen — even the sheriff. The sheriff's chief deputy has been openly accused of being a Klansman which is probably so. They turn their backs on whatever the Klansmen do. The only thing they haven't let them do is demonstrate right in the heart of town. Some of the people claim they have concrete evidence that they know part of the police force are Klansmen."

"Harlan's bad enough, but when you get this started, it's really bad. One girl was going with a Black guy. They burned her house *down*. They couldn't burn a cross, they burned her whole house down. And then she and her family were run out of Harlan County. This other girl had a baby who was part Black. They burned a cross in front of her house, and she had to move out of Harlan County.

"That night, with the white sheets around that cross, standing around like big shit, someone interviewed me down there, and I told them it was stupidity to do that.

"The night they had the rally I got word that they were all going to my brother-in-law's house and were going to put them away. So we all got shotguns and were waiting. They didn't show up because they knew we were waiting. There wouldn't be no white sheets, there would be red sheets — covered with blood. Us hillbillies aren't going to take that shit."

"What gets me is the Klan is the law down there. They were advertising down home in *Harlan News* — just $25, and you can join the KKK. Coal mines run everything, the hospitals, the radio station, You can't put anything on unless the big man says you can. It depends on how much money you have."

"At the Klan meeting we went to they were passing out leaflets telling you you can join. My brother-in-law said he was going to join. My sister-in-law and I were screaming, telling him he was a fool. The owner of the funeral home was there, the law was there. I was praying that the

"It is believed that a lot of the policemen are Klansmen — even the sheriff. The sheriff's chief deputy has been openly accused of being a Klansman."

cross would burn before it got down. It burned, and then it fell down, and everyone yelled 'hurray' because that's a sign that the KKK isn't going to work.

"At the big rally last year the cross didn't burn all the way, and lots of people thought that was good. There were 200-300 standing up, clapping and saying, 'We told you it wouldn't work.' I'm going to be one of them fighting them because I don't believe they should mess with people."

Like I told you the KKK is the big man not the little men. It's the owners of the mines. They won't even let factories come in. They won't put up a big shopping center even. They don't want no factories, nothing! Because they know they'll lose their workers. There's hundreds of people who've been trying to get factories in there. The miners kick them out because they're boss. If there was work down there I would be home."

"All the poor people are against them. But hell, they ain't got nothing to fight them with. The KKK got money, they've got pull in Everts. Like I said, they *are* Everts; they *are* the police."□

LA Chapter Black Panther Party Reopens

January 17, 1977 marked the re-opening of the Southern California Chapter of the Black Panther Party, with an all-day schedule of events highlighted by speeches from Black Panther Party Chairperson Elaine Brown, Oakland Community School Director Ericka Huggins, also a leading Party member, and the distribution of 500 free bags of groceries at the Party's new South Central Avenue headquarters.

Eight years earlier on this very day, January 17, 1969, the Southern California Chapter's founder/coordinator, Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter, and John Huggins, one of the Chapter's first members and Ericka's husband, were assassinated on the UCLA campus by cowardly reactionaries from the Ron Karenga-led US organization, part of the infamous FBI COINTELPRO plot to destroy the then fledgling Black Panther Party and the growing strength of this true people's organization. KEEP STRONG reprints here a few excerpts from Elaine Brown's speech at the historic January 17 event.

"It was so unfair that Bunchy and John were killed, it really was. It was so unfair that 50 million people died in the crossing when Blacks came from Africa to this country. It was unfair when Tyrone Guyton, a 14-year-old kid in Oakland, was shot down by two overgrown pigs. It was unfair when Martin Luther King was blown away by a conspiracy in this country and

Fallen comrades Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter and John Jerome Huggins.

The Los Angeles Chapter of the Black Panther Party will be coordinated by long-time activist Bob Duren (center, back).

they had nerve enough to pin it on a little racist like James Earl Ray, who didn't have the heart to pull the trigger much less the intelligence to figure out which way to aim the gun. All of that is unfair. But it doesn't matter what is unfair. The only thing that matters is power. We are the people, and we ought to be in power. But we're not in power, we're poor...

"I want to tell you why, what the significance is in the fact that John and Bunchy were killed. Because the Black Panther Party just did one thing. We said, with our very lives, "There is something wrong here, something has to be done.' And a lot of little Marxist groups came up, everyone carrying the Red Book, reading this and doing that, like they were going to organize the world out of a book. In Berkeley we see it all the time: having reading circles; smoking weed; looking at pictures of my dead friends; wanting us to make some more dead friends so they can have more pictures and have more conversations.

"I have nothing to say to that other than we're all going to bleed this time around. We're all going to participate in the revolution. Some of us won't even want to, but we're all going to participate, to achieve an abrupt change here.

"Bunchy and John did not die in vain. Nor was the Black Panther Party formed in vain. But the Black Panther Party is not as significant as the numbers of people who have died in vain in this country. The numbers of brothers that were killed in Vietnam and the numbers of Vietnamese people killed. The numbers of people who die from sclerosis, hypertension, sickle cell anemia, and all kinds of other diseases that are 'incurable' and that won't go away until oppression goes away.

"But a whole machinery—and we intend to prove this with a current lawsuit we just filed on December 1 last year—a whole machinery, the FBI, the CIA, came down against the Black Panther Party. They have admitted this by now, and even the Church Committee couldn't wash away all of that.

" 'Well, we didn't create the Breakfast Program booklet,' they said, 'but we did distribute it and we did reproduce it and we did put it out in the thousands.' They mesmerized an entire country that watches too much TV with the idea that 'the Black Panther Party is indoctrinating young children.' ('We're just not going to talk about the public school system. That's irrelevant. The public school system is teaching millions of people to be intelligent and objective, objectively intelligent. Thinking people.') 'But the Black Panther Party is indoctrinating people.' And everybody went for that because they saw it on TV.

"But it's now been shown that the FBI, the CIA and all of those other agencies together turned on one small organization. Everybody was talking about, 'How big is the Black Panther Party?' We never wanted to tell, but really we were very small. We didn't have a lot of people. If we had put all of our inoperative guns together — and some of our operative guns together — we couldn't have gone up against the 77th Precinct (an LAPD substation in Watts).

"Do you know what I'm saying? We were nothing to be afraid of, not the Black Panther Party in and of itself.

"What they were afraid of was that a whole bunch of people would start getting an idea in their head that we're not supposed to accept this shit any longer. (Pardon me to those of you who are filming and have to clip things out.) That no longer would we have to accept *anything;* that we were the power, that we would make the

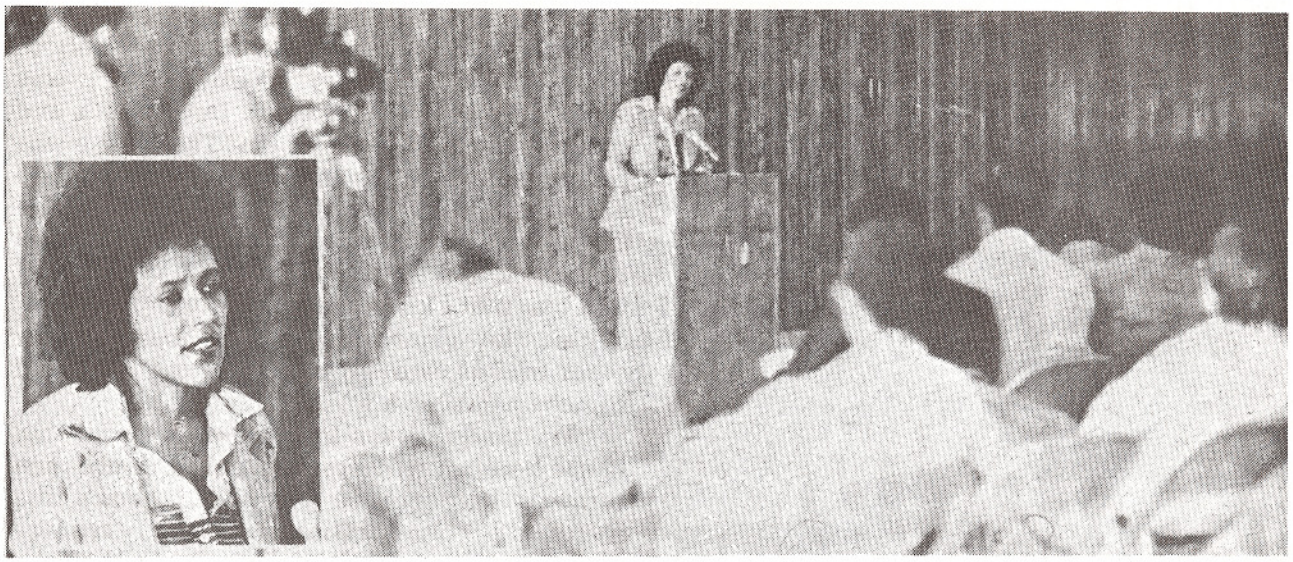
"The only thing that matters is power. We are the people, and we ought to be in power. But we're not in power, we're poor..."

decisions; we would decide how the courts would be run, what the laws would say, and that those laws in fact would serve us; that we would decide that we could eat; that we could decide that we would have decent medical care; that we could decide all the things for our lives that allow us to make other decisions; that the basics would be taken care of. The food and the clothing and the shelter — the little things that keep you breathing — would be taken care of. Even the air that we breathe would be clean enough for us to to breathe it. That's all the Black Panther Party was all about.

"People said, 'Well are they Marxist?' There were some Blacks, some of them up on this campus, that said, 'Oh, they're integrationists,' because we wanted to work with SDS, because we wanted to work with the Brown Barets. We wanted to work with a whole lot of other organizations because we recognized then that there was a principle involved here that was more important than a color. That principle was that there is one common oppressor, and only a couple hundred of them. (A lot of pigs run around supporting them, but they're underpaid, going around here ready to be killed behind Richard Nixon and Richard Nixon's not ready to get killed for them. Can you imagine him taking his tired self out into the streets ready to defend his country? If that was all we had to go toe-to-toe with, we'd win tonight.) Unfortunately, they have a machinery, schools to keep our minds a certain way, stores and things to keep us mesmerized over here and peeping over there.

"So the question is, what do we do? The Black Panther Party — we weren't Marxists, we weren't Leninists, we weren't Fidelists, we weren't Maoists — we were just some poor people, many of us very ignorant, unskilled, uneducated that said, 'Listen, we do know *something* is wrong. *Something* is wrong and

The whole machinery of the FBI and CIA tried to discredit the Free Breakfast for Children Program claiming that "The Black Panther Party is indoctrinating young children."



Elaine Brown (inset) addresses memorial rally for Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter and John Huggins on the UCLA campus where the two Black Panther Party leaders were killed eight years ago.

we're going to have to do *something* about it.' We started identifying what was wrong: police on the streets kicking in our doors. 'Wait a minute, where does it say they can kick in my door'; 'Where does it say that my child has to go to school dizzy in the head, crazy, because he or she can't eat.' That's all the Black Panther Party is about, that's all we were saying all along and that's all we're saying today. And if the Black Panther Party dissolves, or evolves into something else, it really won't matter as long as we remain clear on what the very serious problems are in this country and the fact that something has to be done about it.

"We attempted to do little things. We put together Survival Programs...

"J. Edgar Hoover said, 'The Black Panther Party is the single greatest threat to the internal security of the United States.' I tell you, this is a joke. Our little band wasn't going to deliver the world... We were not the 'greatest threat to the internal security of the United States' — 211 million people were that would have had an idea in their minds that, 'Listen, I no longer wish to be told how to live my life.' *That* was the 'greatest threat to the internal security of the United States,' *and* the fact that the Black Panther Party was willing to get out there and talk to anybody and everybody willing to listen, and lay down our very lives to do that. That's why we were classified and pointed out...

"But it isn't just the Black Panther Party, it's all of us together. What can we do? You don't have to join an organization, you don't have to leap up and down and join the Black Panther Party. Everybody's not willing to do that, everybody's not ready to do that and it's not necessary for everybody to do it. We need people in the machinery, messing with the little pieces and figuring out where the pieces go that count.

"In Oakland recently, we elected a brother to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. This is a simple structure but suffice it to say that five supervisors run a program that handles millions upon millions of dollars. They handle the county jail system, the welfare system, the public school system and so forth. There's only five of them and I can assure you that the average Black person in Oakland does not know the name of one, and doesn't know anything about what they do. We don't even know what the machinery is that affects our very lives.

"So those of us that have consciousness and ability, one of the things we have to do is begin to identify the forms of oppression; go out and tell other people about them. People are not stupid They just don't understand a lot of things. That's what the Party is trying to do, and that's all we've ever tried to do. We'll die trying to do that, and, as Che Guevara said, some other people will pick up the machine gun and somebody else will carry on. Some of you in this room will carry on and some of you will walk away, saying, 'Well, it was wonderful to listen to her, but, you know I've got to get back to what's real.'

"What's real is that we can work together, you and I and all those other people out there. It's important because we're really not enemies but friends and lovers. We have to begin to identify who the enemies are, seek them out and identify

The Black Panther Party attempted to do little things, to put together survival programs, including the Oakland Community School, a true model of education for all oppressed and progressive people.

them to others — and build up our machinery so we can talk about the total liberation of Black people, the total liberation of all oppressed people, not only inside of this country, but throughout the entire world.

"That's what John and Bunchy were all about, and that's why they were killed. The only memorial that we can possibly have — if you felt anything at all, if you didn't, it doesn't matter because there are many, many other Johns and Bunchys — but if you felt anything, and you want to say something for John and Bunchy, say it with a moment of your time, participate in something — whether you like the Black Panther Party or some other party that's doing something to free the minds of our people — so that we can organize at some point and truly live together and truly live a human and decent existence.

"POWER TO THE PEOPLE."

"We were not the 'greatest threat to the internal security of the United States' — 211 million people were that would have had an idea in their minds that, 'Listen, I no longer wish to be told how to live my life.' *That* was the 'greatest threat to the internal security of the United States,' *and* the fact that the Black Panther Party was willing to get out there and talk to anybody and everybody willing to listen, and lay down our very lives to do that."

JOSE "PEPE" MEDINA

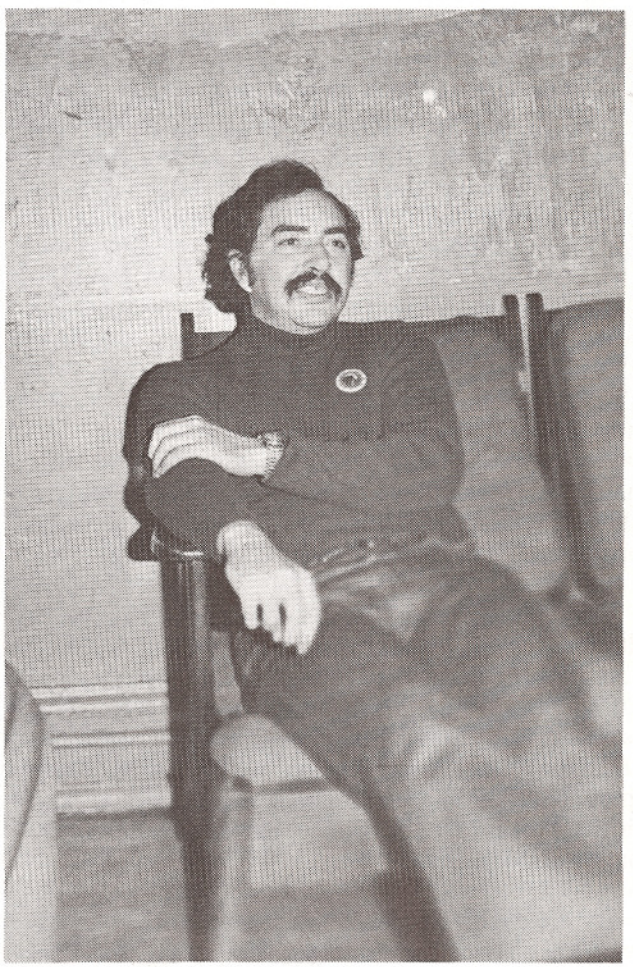
Struggling for Justice on Both Sides of the Border

One of the most significant political cases today is the case of Jose "Pepe" Medina. The government is attempting to deport the Mexicano activist, who has done a great deal to dramatize the plight of "undocumented workers" in this country and to organize these workers in new and growing organizations. Below, KEEP STRONG *reports on a six-hour interview with Medina, in the first part of a continuing series on his life and contribution to the struggle of his people.*

Jose "Pepe" Medina sits talking with us as the long afternoon begins. He has brought a few of his comrades from CASA (General Brotherhood of Workers) with him and sometimes he speaks in English, sometimes in Spanish with a translator. We feel anticipation. While we live side by side with Mexicanos, there is a wide gulf between us, the unknown history of people driven into this country and the problems they face as "undocumented workers" or simply as "Mexicans."

Medina begins by explaining his early involvement in the movement for social justice, while a student in Mexico. "As progressive students, we started to understand that the educational program was really old and didn't lead the students to help the people of Mexico, but to help the corporations, to help the government and to help the enemies of the people. All of the students, when they finish their education, go only to jobs in the system — in the judicial sector, the owners sector and the government sector. So I began to understand the reality of education and the reality outside the university. My conceptions of the world started to change."

Medina explains to us the beginning of the student movement in 1966, "a mass movement that led to a principal event." At the first, the student movement was an education movement. Its objective was to develop alternatives in the type of education offered in the schools. Medina participated directly in this growing movement, helping to establish schools called "Preparatarios Populares." It was education based on helping the people of Mexico.



The student movement for educational change soon adopted other issues, issues of democratic rights in the face of the repressive Mexican government. The students demanded the right to petition, to have demonstrations, the right to free speech. The government granted many of the students' demands. In fact, "The government utilized our movement to put together a political position for the election." However, "The government lost control of the movement because it started to grow and develop independence. Then they could not stop the movement or direct it to their own benefit. The only way the government could stop the movement was by massacres of the people."

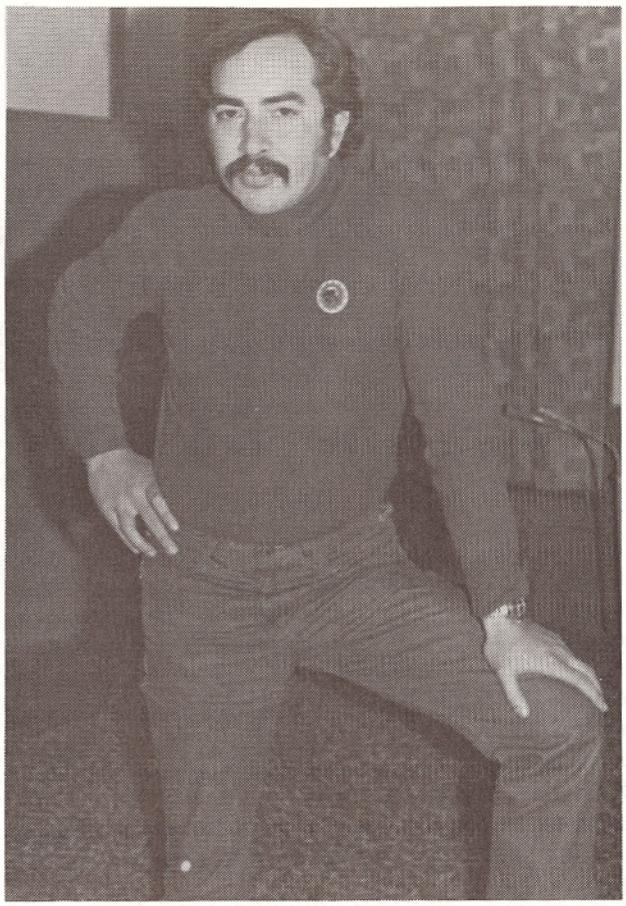
By this time, in 1968, Jose Medina was a lawyer and was developing a law office to assist with the problems of peasants and workers and of people in the communities. He was a witness to many of the massacres and assisted in the legal defense of the students. "I recall the massacre on October 2 in La Plaza de Tres, where more than 1,200 students, peasants and workers were killed by the army. Then more than 300 students in the leadership of the movement were arrested and put in jail. I myself was arrested several times."

Through 1969 and 1970 the repression against the students continued. Raids for alleged weapons that were never found ended in the imprisonment of hundreds of students. Medina recalls that it was difficult to defend the students legally because the government often did not even charge them. They were simply locked up for long periods of time.

In 1970 when the new president, Echevarria, was elected, the students continued to organize. They developed a movement to keep the President of Mexico from coming to the university "for a visit." The government developed new forms of repression, training and using "paramilitary" civilian groups to attack those students, peasants or workers who organized. There were many assassinations.

"In 1971, we tried to go to the streets again, to demonstrate. We were asking for the issues of the working class like trade union democracy and independent workers organizations." Again the paramilitary, government-organized groups attacked. With the protection of the police, these groups killed many of the students, beat and injured others. The police arrested the newspaper reporters."

By now the students understood that there was no chance for "democratic struggles. The



students started to form brigades to go outside the city and mingle their activities with the peasants, with the workers and their struggles, and then with the people who had come to the big cities in their struggle for decent housing. The brigades started to develop an independent movement of peasants and workers, and in response the government repression developed more deeply against all manifestations of the struggle."

While helping to develop the student brigades, Medina played a key role in the trade union movement, especially in the struggle to bring democracy to the railroad workers union. He described the development of the movement among the railroad workers and the repression it met.

"One example was the struggle of the railroad workers looking for an independent union. They started to take over the different locals in all the states. The National Union has 29 locals in the whole country. The workers started to demand assemblies, to develop democracy in the local and to get rid of the sell-outs in leadership and to put in new leaders. Sixteen of the 29 locals across the country were controlled by the membership. Then the government started to kill the

Demonstration of the electrical workers union which went out on strike all over Mexico last year.

leadership, state by state. They used their special paramilitary groups. For instance, in March of 1972, in Monteray, the office buildings were shot up, and all the workers inside were killed. In the other cities it was the same way. Repression was developed, and they killed the leadership."

Where the student brigades had gone to work and organize among the peasants, the result was the same. The leadership was killed, both students and peasants. "In Mexico they do not permit the development of organizations because they fear opposition."

In 1972 Medina and the students began going back to the university to recruit more students to the brigades and became involved again with the movement around the universities. An issue developed around the bus lines, owned by the government. The students sought to get money for those students who were hurt during an incident involving the buses. When all legal means were exhausted, in vain, the students took over the bus lines for themselves. During the takeover, the students' demands included the demands of the workers for better salaries and better working conditions. "The students' demands now became the demands of the people."

Another issue developed around the university's refusal to admit many students who came from the "teachers' colleges" in search of a better education. Both the students who were denied admission and those within demonstrated, took over the university and won their demands.

"The government's response was a campaign of publicity, where daily they published our photographs on the front pages accusing us of crimes such as carrying weapons, calling us criminals and the scum of the earth. Their other response was to persecute the leaders of the movement. The university was filled up with gangsters in order to intimidate and do away with the activities and leaders of the movement. We confronted those gorillas with our ideas and philosophies, but they did not understand this. So we resorted to their level which was violence. We were successful in confronting them, but the university then resorted to using the police and military against us."

Medina explains that the students built strong support this time around because they fought for the demands of the university workers as well as their own. They kept organizing in spite of the repression, until finally many of them were forced to leave the country. Before Medina was to come to the United States, however, he would return again to Mexico, to the peasants and the ideals of Emiliano Zapata.□

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Carter Cabinet Picks Expose Themselves At Confirmation Hearings

(Washington, D.C) The two weeks of hearings before a variety of Senate confirmation committees and press conferences revealed several disquieting and disturbing aspects of President Jimmy Carter and his Cabinet appointments, among them:

•Testimony by Secretary of Labor Roy Marshall that Carter's much bally-hooed $30 billion "economic stimulus package" is weighed too heavily toward tax relief at the expense of needed jobs;

•Affidavits and memorandums submitted by both NAACP officials and the Congressional Black Caucus which detail Attorney General Griffin Bell's complicity in organizing "massive resistance" to desegregation efforts in Georgia in the late 1950's;

•Andrew Young, Carter's choice for chief U.S. representative at the United Nations, said he "wouldn't have any problem" in vetoing a resolution ousting racist South Africa from the world body;

•The secretary for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph Califano, said he opposes the use of federal funds for abortions;

•Just one day before Bert Lance was named by Carter to head the Office of Management and Budget, the U.S. attorney in Atlanta decided to end an investigation into possible campaign law violations by Lance and the bank he controls.

Despite these revelations, however, Carter's cabinet picks had an easy time with their Senate probers, the only casualty being the sudden withdrawal of Theodore Sorenson for the CIA post—the victim of what many believe was the residue of resentment and hatred lingering from the Kennedy administration when Sorenson was a top aide during a reshuffling of the spy agency following the Bay of Pigs.

Actually, Pat Harris, Carter's only Black appointee (for Housing and Urban Development), endured the only tough questioning as several senators on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee raised barbed points concerning both her commitment to poor people and her expertise in administrative matters.

"You are not of, by and for the people," Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire said to Ms.

After weeks of hearings before a variety of Senate Confirmation Committees and now after confirmation of the Carter cabinet appointees, several disquieting and disturbing aspects linger.

Harris. "Will you really make an effort to get the views of the less articulate, the less represented?" Ms. Harris responded by retelling her personal history — "I am a Black woman, the daughter of a dining car worker" — adding, "I know creeping blight, firsthand, not as a do-gooder, but as a visitor to personal friends and acquaintances."

Concerning Bell, the 65-member NAACP Board of Directors voted unanimously to urge the Senate to reject his nomination as attorney general. At the confirmation hearing, held by the Senate Judiciary Committee, the NAACP was joined by the Congressional Black Caucus and the liberal Americans for Democratic Action in opposing Bell.

Clarence Mitchell, the NAACP chief Washington lobbyist, charged at the hearing that Carter would have lost the Presidential election if Blacks in such states as Ohio and Maryland had known he would name Griffin Bell. Such a nomination, he asserted, was "incredible."

Mitchell accused Democratic members of the Committee of asking Bell "gently leading questions" to make him look good.

The well-respected Black lobbyist also produced a memorandum, dated July 9, 1959, when Bell was chief of staff for arch-segregationist Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver, which discusses ways to circumvent Supreme Court school desegregation rulings. Bell's own position is that, in matters of civil rights, he tried to act as a force for moderation."

Parren Mitchell, of Maryland, chairman of the CBC and brother of the NAACP lobbyist, said Bell's avowed intention to retain his membership in several all-White clubs is indicative of a lifelong failure to stand up for minority rights. He said Bell was "the mastermind of Georgia's massive resistance" to school desegregation.

Georgia state senator Julian Bond, whom Bell ruled against in a legal challenge to the state house of representatives in 1966 because of his outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War, told reporters, "I just kept thinking about what Governor Carter said about 'why not the best.' Judge Bell is not the best. . .No, I don't think he's a bigot. He's a turkey."

ADA Vice President Joseph Rauh told the Judiciary Committee that, "Judge Bell has shown a lack of sensitivity to the rights of Blacks, other minorities and women. "For the last 14 years, from 1958 to 1972, as a lawyer and as a judge, Mr. Bell gave aid and comfort to the segregationists of this country."

Several other Bell opponents mentioned the attorney general's 1970 backing of Harold Carswell for the U.S. Supreme Court "even though the latter's views on White supremacy were a matter of public awareness."

Meanwhile, concerning Carter's economic package, Labor Secretary Marshall said there is "very little rationale" for tax cuts to reduce unemployment. He cited statistics to show that it takes over $20,000 in tax cuts but only $5,000 in direct expenditures to produce a job, and suggested that another one to two billion dollars be allocated for job-creating public works projects.□

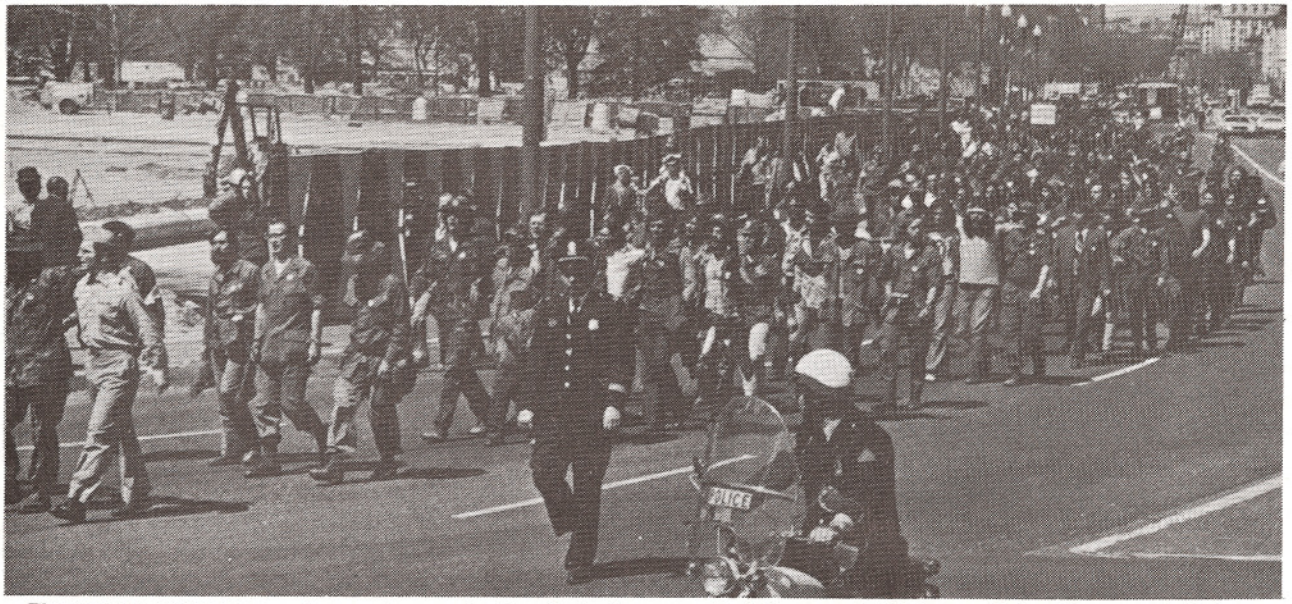
Reprinted from The Black Panther

Veterans Denounce Carter's Draft "Pardon"

(Washington, D.C.) Veterans organizations representing poor and minority people across the country have denounced President Jimmy Carter's "pardon" of Vietnam draft evaders because of its exclusion of veterans with less-than-honorable discharges — who are overwhelmingly Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Native Americans and poor Whites.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said in a statement that the pardon "extends overdue relief to a small segment of the war resisters of the Vietnam era, but military offenders and veterans with less-than-honorable discharges are more numerous than draft violators by a factor of 100 to 1. They are also, by and large, more likely to be poor, from minority groups and less educated." ACLU Executive Director Aryeh Neier added that "99 per cent of the people who could have benefited from a full amnesty still need to be dealt with," the *New York Times* reports.

A recent study on draft resistance in the Vietnam era, commissioned by the University of Notre Dame and researched by Lawrence M. Baskir and William A. Strauss, declares, "The burdens of Vietnam were unevenly imposed. The



Thousands of Vietnam veterans demonstrating their disapproval of the war in Vietnam. Today the overwhelming majority of military offenders during that era have been ignored by President Carter's pardon.

economically and socially disadvantaged did most of the fighting. They also paid most of the penalties for not fighting. No one should be asked to pay any further price."

During last fall's Presidential campaign, Carter promised that, if elected, he would pardon all those who broke Selective Service laws during the Vietnam War, in an effort to "heal our country..." However, the pardon — issued on January 21, as the Georgia peanut farmer's first executive order on his first full day in office — was a bitter disappointment to the over one million people who do not fall into the categories covered by the pardon.

Those categories include: 13,000 convicted draft violators, fugitives from the draft and those under indictment for draft violations, according to U.S. Justice Department figures; and an estimated 250,000 who did not register for the draft and were never caught; men and women who received dishonorable and bad conduct discharges will not be eligible for upgrading.

The progressive military publication *Turning The Regs Around* estimates that there are 790,000 Vietnam War era vets with less-than-honorable discharges for AWOL (Absent Without Leave) offenses or for acts of resistance within the armed services, and at least 93,000 deserters, both those who are "still-at-large" and those already caught, punished and doubly punished with bad discharges.

Pete Mahoney, former national coordinator of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and an infantry lieutenant in the Army who served from 1970-71 in Vietnam emphasized that, "They've always tried to say the veterans are against pardons, but in reality it's veterans who need a pardon the most. It was a typical class thing that those who could afford to run to Canada or evade the draft were pardoned, whereas those who couldn't afford and finally deserted or received bad discharges were not pardoned."

Information revealed by the Baskir-Strauss study discloses that almost one-third of all military offenders were "educationally disadvantaged" and were brought into the armed services under the Pentagon's Project 100,000 and New Standards manpower programs. "Instead of calling up the reserves or drafting college students — either of which would have involved immense political consequences — the government met its manpower needs during the Vietnam build up by accepting hundreds of thousands of recruits who would have been disqualified before and after the Vietnam War," the study says.

Danny Friedman, who served in Vietnam from 1967-68 in armor reconnaisance further noted, "It's a sham. Carter only pardoned a handful of people that resisted, whereas there's some 700,000 that received "bad paper," and they weren't included. So if Carter is smart he will do something constructive for them because with bad paper they can't get jobs or education, and they are becoming an angry force on the streets."

Emphasizing that Black and poor people have been ignored by the Presidential pardon, a

spokesperson for Pacific Counseling Service in San Francisco said that for fiscal year 1976 there were a total of 30,721 undesirable discharges and 53,135 general discharges, the first step down from an honorable discharge. Blacks and other minorities received such discharges by a margin of 4 to 1 over Whites, he said.

Randy Saltz, Vietnam veteran and veterans' rights counselor in Chicago stated, "The pardon Carter has pushed through has no effect at all on the overwhelming majority of military offenders who received less-than-honorable discharges. They outnumber draft evaders by 100 to 1 and must go back home to their communities with the double scars of being denied benefits as well as not being hired to work. This is the area Carter's pardon should have dealt with."□

Native Americans Charge FBI Harassment

Leonard Peltier, recently extradited from Canada to face charges of murder in the United States, has requested to have his trial on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He's charged in connection with the deaths of two FBI agents in Oglala, on the reservation, June 26, 1975. Although an Indian man, Joe Stuntz Killsright, died the same day, no one has been charged with his death. On June 26, Leonard Peltier lived in Oglala, and two of his children still live on the reservation. People and traditional leaders on the Pine Ridge Reservation issued the following statement in response to Peltier's request.

"Many people of the Oglala Lakota Nation support Leonard Peltier's request to have his trial in the Oglala Lakota Nation. According to the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, it is illegal to have his trial anywhere else since the incident in which he is accused took place within the sovereign nation. On June 26, 1975, when a young Indian man and two agents lost their lives in the Oglala community, Leonard Peltier was living in the Oglala community at the request of the Oglala people. Therefore, we feel responsible that his rights as a citizen of the great Sioux Nation not be violated. He has a right to a fair trial by a jury of his peers in the location of the incident. For all of his thirty-four years, Leonard, like all Indian

More than 250 police and FBI agents descended on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975. Many still remain.

people, has had his treaty rights broken and ignored by the U.S. government. Now he stands in danger for his life, not because he has committed any crime, but because he has been a strong vocal leader of Indian rights and because he has assisted the people of the Oglala Lakota Nation. According to the 1868 Treaty, the chiefs and the headman must determine if a crime has been committed. The accused is to be turned over to the U.S. government, or to be tried by the Oglala Lakota Nation according to its own laws. It is time for the U.S. to begin honoring its commitments, especially its sacred treaty commitments.

"The Lakota Treaty Council, our traditional governing body, is now considering the charges the U.S. has brought against Leonard Peltier. The U.S. government must wait until they have reached a verdict and abide by that decision . The very presence of the FBI in our nation is a violation of our treaty.

"While the U.S. is celebrating their 200th birthday, talking of freedom and liberty, FBI agents daily violate our treaty rights and their own constitution. After coming here illegally, they have attempted to bribe Indian people, forced their way into peoples homes without warrants and threatened people with arrest, subpoenaes, and m-16s, and did nothing about the violence and high level of corruption within our nation because of the policy of the U.S. government.

"We call on the United Nations to conduct an investigation of the U.S. government's actions in our nation—especially the murder of Indian activists: Buddy Lamont, Pedro Bissonette, Joe Stuntz Killsright, Anna Mae Pictou, and many others who have died in this nation for their treaty rights."□

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Smith Ends Geneva Talks – Increases Attack On Liberation Struggle

Following a Senate Staff Committee report recommending that the U.S. government increase its diplomatic relations with the illegal racist government of Ian Smith in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Smith delivered the final death blow to the peace talks in Geneva. In a nationwide television and radio address, Rhodesian "Prime Minister" Ian Smith declared that his regime would never accept the British proposals for Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), proposals that the freedom fighters and the African front line states said they were willing to discuss. The British proposals called for: a resident British high commissioner to oversee the interim period prior to Black majority rule; an interim council of ministers that would run the government; and a national security council that would be responsible for defense and law and order. Smith stated in his address that to accept these proposals would be tantamount to turning the country over to a "Marxist-dominated minority."

Meanwhile, the white minority regime has stepped up its attacks on Zimbabwean Black liberation forces, assassinating a top aide of Black Nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo and hanging eight freedom fighters convicted of terrorism and sabotage. Jason Moyo, 53, was killed when a mail bomb exploded at the African National Council (ANC) offices in Lusaka, Zambia. Nkomo is head of the internal wing of the ANC which had joined the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), the vanguard Black revolutionary organization which initiated the armed struggle against the Smith regime, to form the Patriotic Front prior to the opening of the Geneva talks. A spokesperson for the ANC, Josiah Chinamano said concerning Mayo's death, "This is no doubt the dastardly work of the enemies of the freedom and human rights of Zimbabwe."

The eight Zimbabwean freedom fighters hung in Salisbury on January 17 had been held on death row in the city's central prison since last November. They had been convicted of "acts of sabotage and terrorism against the White minority regime." White government officials informed the families of the men of the hangings after they were carried out.

Leaders of the Patriotic Front, Robert Mugabe

While Ian Smith, head of Rhodesia's illegal government, dealt a death blow to the peace talks in Geneva, Patriotic Front Leaders called for an intensification of the armed struggle.

of ZANU and Joshua Nkomo of the ANC, have recently called for an intensification of the armed struggle. The end of the Geneva talks brought no comment from them, since they have long predicted that the Geneva talks would fail and that Black majority rule would be won on the battlefield.□

PSP Members Get Severe Sentences

(San Juan, P.R.) Edwin Melendez and Elias Castro will have to serve from ten to fifteen years; Carmen Adelaida Acevedo was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and Luis Medina was given a five year sentence by Judge Felix Ortiz Juan, last Thursday.

The severe sentences of the four, who are members of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, were announced in court in the presence of the defense lawyers, family and comrades of the accused.

Melendez and Castro will have to serve 10 to 15 years concurrently for two charges of an alleged violation of article 5 of the Arms Law, 1 to 3 years for conspiracy and 6 months for an alleged infraction of article 6 of the Arms Law, without probation.

Acevedo was sentenced to serve 10 to 20 years

Edwin Melendez

Carmen Adelaida Acevedo

for two alleged violations of article 5 of the Arms Law and 2 to 5 years for conspiracy. Acevedo will remain on probation for twenty years under the conditions stipulated by the court.

Medina will have to serve 5 years on probation for alleged conspiracy.

Judge Ortiz Juan imposed severe conditions under which Acevedo and Medina would have to comply with their probation. Amongst others, neither socialist can participate in political activities, directly or indirectly; they cannot be active in any political party; they are prohibited from associating with persons who are known to want to overthrow the "commonwealth" government; they are prohibited from leaving the country; they are ordered to work in a rewarding job and study; they will have to report to their probation officers in person periodically. Any violation of these conditions will revoke their probation.

Melendez and Castro were incarcerated immediately after a hearing before the judge who denied them bail on appeal.

The defense lawyers, Hector Lugo Bougal, Enrique Gonzalez, Julio Eduardo Torres, Gregorio Lima and Fermin Arraiza announced that they will appeal the sentence and take it to the Supreme Court.□

Reprinted from *Claridad*

130 MILLION WATCH "ROOTS"

The T.V. network giants tried to sell something new to the people of this country last month: reality. It was an overwhelming success. *Roots*, the "T.V. novel" based on the book by Alex Haley about the origins of his family in Africa, through slavery and into the present, was viewed by over 130 million people and became the most watched television show of all time.

In spite of occasional "Hollywood" interpretations, the show gave the people of this country its first look at their history through the eyes of Black people. It wasn't pretty, but the pride of Black people, shown in the face of the calculated, institutionalized, unrestricted human cruelty of slavery, will not soon be forgotten by Black or White people.

Who did White people identify with in *Roots*? Most identified with the slaves. One person interviewed by *KEEP STRONG* said, "I began feeling sorry for them, then I began rooting for them, because they were right." But there were White people in *Roots* in whom, painfully, White viewers should have seen themselves.

First there was Ames. Ames understood that the slaves were human, sharing the same human potential, desires and needs as White people. He knew because he had been a kind of slave, an indentured servant, for seven years. He knew that the Whites were afraid of the Black people in slavery which surrounded them, and he knew it was his job to "keep the niggers down." While the master read the bible, he whipped the slaves.

Ames also knew that he had an advantage over the slaves just because he was White. "A slave will always be a slave because he is Black, even if he goes somewhere else," he thought. But Ames could leave his slave mark behind, because he was White. He identified with the master. He thought of the farm as "his farm," the tobacco crop as "his tobacco crop." Of course when he disagreed with the master, the master was always right. And when he failed to do his job of "putting fear" into those bound in slavery, when "Toby" (Kunta Kinte) escapes, the master tells Ames to follow him — and not come back. For all of his pretensions, his dreams, the master's code of usefulness applied the same to him as to the slaves. What happened to Ames? Did his bitterness make him a more oppressive "slave overseer" in the next place, or did it grow into the spirit of struggle against the common oppressor?

Then there was Tom Moore who owned a small farm, a few slaves and dreamed of glory to be won through his fighting cocks. But Tom Moore had nothing but an illusion. His success at cock fighting was based on the Black slave "chicken George's" abilities as a trainer and a handler. The White, rich "gentlemen" looked down on him and rejected him, and finally took chicken George away from him. He treated the one person he related to, chicken George, his son by rape, as a slave and therefore had to fear him. In the end he lost everything.

Finally, there was "old George" and his wife, Martha. Run off their small farm in South Carolina by the war, they went for food and shelter to the people who were poor like them, the slaves. They never forgot that they were taken in and supported through the troubled times when Martha's first child was born dead. Tom, the slave son of chicken George, makes "old George" (really a very young White brother) a strong ally and teaches him to front for them as an "overseer." In the end he not only helps them to escape, but goes with them, the only real friends or family he has ever had. Where Ames and Tom Moore had begun with illusions and ended with nothing, Old George began with nothing and ended as a human being.

Those who rule us have always created their own gravediggers. By experimenting with "marketing reality" to sell their products, they have helped build a unity against oppression and racism which they will regret. The networks and sponsors have made a few profits off of us by showing *Roots*, but they have given us something more valuable: knowledge.□

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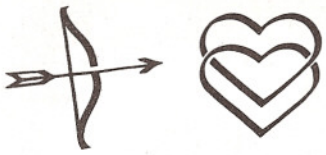

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46th Ward Community Service Center

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Welfare Defense advocate Bonnie Freeman (right) examining public aid policies with Robin Bowling.

- **LEGAL PROGRAM**
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- **TENANTS' RIGHTS**
- **TRANSPORTATION TO PRISONS**
- **TUTORIAL PROGRAM**
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Tenants' Rights Clinic: **Tuesdays**
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuesdays
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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"In this election, as in the past, the only issue currently is the politicians themselves, and 'what piece of the pie' which politicians will get. It is our responsibility, all of our responsibility, to make the people the issue, our oppression, our needs and our dreams, in Chicago and in every city across the country."